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L E T T E R S
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TO

MARRIED WOMEN.

L O N D O N :

Printed for G. KEARSLEY, in LUDGATE-STREET.

MDCCLXVII.

1767

LETTERS ADVERTISEMENT.

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ago, but the engagements
prevented him from sending them till now.



They are partly dedicated to the
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As the opinion with respect to those
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ADVERTISEMENT.

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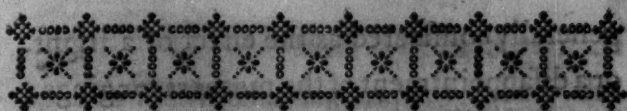
LETTER XV.

Old age—by virtue rendered truly honourable.

*The steps by which we mounted into life,
shewn to be the easiest, and best paths, to
descend into the grave.*

E R R A T A.

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LETTER I.

*Of Marks.—the imaginary consequences of
frights and longings : a candid enquiry into
the merits of this doctrine.*

PREJUDICES that have been imbib-
ed in our early days, received from
those we esteem and reverence, and deliver-
ed to us with the sanction of long experience,
nay the authority of past ages ; must needs
make impressions upon the most candid and
ingenuous minds : particularly when almost
every day produces strange and wonderful
stories to corroborate the supposed fact.

THE various blemishes frequently disco-
vered upon children at the birth, have been

generally considered as the effect of a fright, or a disappointment of the mothers longings; and indeed this opinion has so far prevailed, that it has been, for a long time past, looked upon as incontestible. Should any one therefore presumptuously dare to deny this amazing peculiarity in pregnant women, and the consequent effect upon the embryo, he must expect nothing less than the general censures of the female world. Besides, the many positive assertions upon this head, from the most sensible persons of undoubted veracity, forbid a prudent man to speak with freedom against the doctrine. Nevertheless it surely cannot be improper to make a candid enquiry into so wonderful a phenomenon.

IT is a subject by far the most interesting to the ladies: it comes indeed particularly under their cognizance, for the dreaded evil affects the fair sex much more essen-

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tially than it does ours. With my female friends therefore I beg leave to discuss this important point.

IT is by every one allowed to the honour of this nation, and let particular commendation be given to the daughters of Great Britain themselves, that in the education of young women, letters, and the polite improvements, are much more attended to in this age than formerly; accomplishments which not only conduce to form their manners more engaging, but qualify them likewise for the happy domestic life; and contribute much to adorn these amiable and sweetly-endearing companions of the social hour. How essentially necessary is such a friend to render life comfortable and happy!

WHAT a lustre does every good and accomplished woman add to the matrimonial state!—She must by every reasonable man

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be considered not only as the partner of his bed, but of his very soul.

I HAVE at this time in my recollection many such exalted characters, to whom in a most particular manner I now address myself:—women, whose enlarged minds are capable of a much greater depth of reasoning than these speculations will afford; and in whose company I have oftentimes enjoyed the happiness of friendly conversation—with whom, upon different occasions I have, in part, entered into the subject of this, and the following letters. It is indeed at the request of several of these my worthy female friends that I have been induced to collect my thoughts, in order to deliver them to the public.

IGNORANCE, my fair readers, is the parent of credulity and superstition. Knowledge is the conqueror that triumphs over such terrible foes. How much is the un-

derstanding enlightened and improved by the use of letters? When therefore we consider that the art of printing was not discovered until the fifteenth century, and that it was even then a long time before it became universal in Europe, we shall not so much wonder at the bigotry and rudeness of manners in our ancestors; and we shall cease to reflect upon those credulous times.

TO the score of ignorance we are to place the many and hideous stories which have been formerly related of apparitions, goblins, witches and what not, that have at times infested different parts of Europe; and even in England have claimed the attention of civil and religious power: instances of which are to be found in our history.

AT this period I believe there are but few who give credit to such romances. The Spectator and his cotemporaries pretty well cleared the country of witches. As to ghosts,

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the last that made its appearance was the notorious Fanny of Cock-lane, and this arch spirit was effectually laid, as it is called, in a court of justice; where the gentlemen of the law carefully collected her ashes, and, like alchemists, turned them into gold, so that there is no fear of any more spirits rising from her urn.

WE are now, my intelligent fair, fully convinced of the ridiculous fallacy of such bugbears, and at this time there is scarcely a female but can enjoy without one dreadful apprehension, a cool and silent walk by moon light. A pleasure their mothers could hardly be prevailed upon to partake of; for not longer than half a century ago, if a dauntless virgin had thus presumptuously ventured, the affrighted parents would have been apprehensive for their daughter, lest she should sometime or another, be punished for such impious audacity.

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THUS we see mysteries and wonders daily vanishing in proportion as literary knowledge, and the general improvement of the understanding are cultivated.

TO some future season perhaps we must postpone the elucidation of marks, the supposed consequences of frights and longings: Yet if this matter should be a subject of dispute with the ladies for the present, I doubt not that a little time and candid observation will commit the very idea of such romantic opinions, together with frights, and every other superstitious error, to the deserved oblivion.

A fright is generally believed to have the same unlucky effect upon pregnant women, as a disappointment of their wishes will produce. Hence they are perpetually racked between hope and fear, to the torment of themselves, and every body about them;

and are sometimes so extravagant with regard to a wish or longing as not to be satisfied but at an immense expence: for we have heard that these strange cravings are not altogether confined to the palate, they sometimes extend themselves to equipage and jewels, and become the instruments of pride, nay even of revenge. But not to insist upon this part of the story, which nevertheless I cannot help thinking may have been often successfully practised; we will confine our remarks to the general manner in which this magic appears.

SOMETIMES I am thought to be almost an infidel in matters of this kind, and the ladies have treated me accordingly; nay frequently when I have begged quarter it has been cruelly denied, which cautions me at this time to be modestly humble and diffident. I shall assert nothing, but by fair and impartial enquiry endeavour to search out the truth.

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IN consequence of my supposed want of faith in these affairs there is scarcely a female I am acquainted with, who does not treasure up every surprising story of this kind that she hears ; to tell it me with all the advantages that a persuasive tongue can give, in order to bring about my conversion.

I VERILY believe that by the assistance of these my good friends I could furnish a large folio volume of such histories. It is a spacious field for the fancy to rove in. A variety of preter-natural marks in living persons may be produced every day: nor can the existence of these extraordinary appearances be denied, for that is incontestible, as every one can vouch. The true cause of such wonders therefore is the subject of our pursuit.

IN the first place I shall make bold to declare that I never met with one of these ble-

misshes, with respect even to the imaginary likeness, that altogether struck my fancy; or as to the supposed cause, engaged my rational confidence.

I HAVE been shewn a mark that was compared to the rind of bacon, and told a strange story of the mother's longing for a gammon—I fancied it to be like the tinge of a Malatto, and congratulated the parents that the child was not altogether swarthy.

A lady of my acquaintance has oftentimes declared that she is marked with a perfect pig, but I never could obtain the sight of this rarity, it not being conveniently situated for public inspection. A little while ago I was in company with her mother, an elderly woman, and quite a stout champion, as I found, for marks. Upon a particular enquiry it appeared that she was

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unacquainted with the accident until some considerable time after the birth; and then from the appearance of the mark she very well remembered the occasion of it—which was this. When she was very near her time, her husband and self were invited to the house of a relation living at some distance, who, she knew, had some very fine sucking-pigs. They both thought the ride would be too much for her; but she recollects her having said that she would go at all events, if she was sure they would dress one of the pigs for dinner.

At length the husband went alone, and returned in the evening with a quarter of a pig that had been dressed on purpose for their dinner, her relation knowing she was fond of it. But alas! as her evil genius would have it, when she set down to supper she could eat but very little; and at that time unluckily rubbed the part with her hand

where her daughter is marked, which she is very certain occasioned the form of a pig. I asked her how the child could be marked, since she had her desire. No matter for that, answered she, though I had the pig, the child to be sure must be marked; because I longed for it nice and hot, with good plumb sauce and gravy, but was obliged to eat it cold. We all laughed heartily at the conclusion, though, as the reader may judge, from different motives. However the old lady thought she had obtained a complete victory.

I HAVE given this little history to shew the absurd manner in which these things are usually accounted for. It will be also proper in this place to remark the notorious dissimilarity of such blemishes, and their supposed originals. To take notice likewise of the ease with which the fancy is imposed upon, or imposes on itself in such

cases, even to infatuation: magnifying the smallest trifles into the strongest confirmations. How often do women rack their minds to find out the origin of these marks? Which evidently proceeds from their aversion to be thought capable of producing an offspring with any imperfections, and their servants and nurses, considering it actually as their business, are always ready to help them out upon these occasions.

FRUIT, wine, boiled lobsters, fresh salmon, and such like things of a red colour are the most common marks, and there is scarcely a family in the kingdom but some one or more of them can produce instances of this sort.

THESE strange effects we are told not only happen to the human race, but also, how wonderful to relate!—to brutes. There is a worthy family whose veracity is not to

be doubted, that are firmly persuaded of the following fact; of which they were all spectators. I shall deliver the account, as nearly as possible, in the lady's words, who favoured me with the relation.

A favourite cat of her father's happened to produce a kitten, which to the surprise of all the family was marked upon the back with a rat. As the kitten grew, the rat encreased likewise, till at the end of some months, it dropped off the kitten quite perfect in its form;—and the lady had it in her own hand. I was questioned very home whether I could any longer doubt the consequences of longing and frights, since it even extended to brutes—for continued she, what could be the cause of this, but the creature being disappointed in some rat she was in pursuit of?

THUS closely pressed I begged her yet to pardon my want of belief—As to the cause

I was silent about it ; that there was a substance upon the kitten which fell off as related I had no doubt—what then could I doubt?—That their own imaginations deceived them.—How was that possible? Much more so than they were aware of—where is the rat, madam?—Thrown away long ago—that is unlucky, for had I seen it, probably it might have struck me as resembling an owl, or some other thing altogether as extravagant. It was downright obstinacy in me, for I would not believe any thing—I further said, had it been a rat I thought she would have wanted courage to touch it—even supposing it to be dead ; and had it been alive, it would certainly have run away and prevented her. This pleasantry abated somewhat of the earnestness of our argument, and a laugh made us very good friends—but I was an incredulous man.

I HAVE heard of a woman surprised in the street when she was very near her time

by a person with a withered arm ; upon her return home the fright threw her into labor and she was delivered of a child with a withered arm.—How can we possibly believe such an immediate effect as this to be produced ?—Is it to be credited that the mother's terror should blast the arm of the child, thus rendering it similar to the object of horror ?

AND if this be rejected, how can we allow the total loss of a limb from a similar cause ?—Could it be annihilated ? This no one will assert. If not, supposing the effect to take place, and the arm or the leg should be separated from the body, what becomes of it ? Such divided parts are never to be found upon these occasions. On the contrary, where there is an addition to the form, proceeding also as we are told, from fright ; such for instance as a toe or two extraordinary, or fingers or arms, in the name of

wonder, from what source can those exuberances be so immediately produced? Is it not astonishing that such credulous infatuations should thus beguile our reason?

NOT to trouble my fair readers with any more of these relations which, by prejudiced persons, are accounted undeniable, I shall just mention a few facts for the consideration of the candid.

A LADY of my particular acquaintance, during the time of her pregnancy, was unfortunately overturned in a coach, by which accident, as she endeavoured to get out, the first joint of her second finger was intirely broken off. This was an alarming circumstance to all her friends, and the dreadful apprehensions of the child being born a cripple disturbed every one; but to the great astonishment of her acquaintance, she was delivered of a fine and perfect boy.

AN eminent practitioner relates a story to this effect, which is equally to be credited as happening under his own observance.

A LADY of fashion being in convulsions, the family sent for the doctor in great haste. He found her upon the bed extremely ill indeed. When her ladyship came a little to herself, she cried out the black cat! the black cat!—her well known particular aversion to this domestic animal seemed to point out the cause of the disaster, of which till now they were intirely ignorant, and the servants diligently searched for the object; when in a tub, placed to receive the rain water, near her ladyship's dressing room window, poor puss was discovered.

THIS sight so terribly affected the lady, that her fears were ever uppermost, and she was miserable until the time of her delivery.

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Neither could her friends pacify her, nor the arguments of so able a man bring her to reason. Notwithstanding all they could say, she was fully persuaded her child's face would be like this black cat. At length Lucina smiled propitious on its birth, and her ladyship's apprehensions vanished upon her being brought to bed of a lovely boy without either mark or blemish.

JUST about the same time it happened that the same gentleman delivered another person of a boy also. The child had a small darkish spot upon the forehead. He was curious enough to interrogate the mother about it, and she most ingenuously declared that she was neither sensible of any fright or longing during the whole time of her breeding.

HAD this blemish happened to the child of the noble parent, the doctor truly observes, the black cat would undoubtedly

have occasioned a remarkable anecdote in the history of her ladyship's house—for by all her family and friends it would have been looked upon as an incontestible proof of these prodigies. And give me leave to add, with much more seeming credibility than the generality of these stories, because the lady had declared her apprehensions at the time of the supposed injury.

I SHALL here add another instance of an apprehension altogether as fruitless as that of the noble lady. It was made known to me in consequence of reading the above to a particular friend, who immediately replied that he was under great anxiety for his wife, upon account of her being terrified at the sight of a person who had a very unhappy blemish upon her face. The wife of this gentleman, by chance going to St. Paul's church, was placed in a stall exactly opposite to the unfortunate object, which affect-

ed her so much that her devotion was intirely lost; and she talked of this poor woman continually after she left the church.

IN a few weeks this lady went again to St. Paul's, and was unluckily placed opposite the same person, which so distress'd her that she dared not to venture there any more. Surely this is as striking an instance as we can suppose. I told my friend I was glad he acquainted me of it before his wife was brought to bed, and that I should pay great attention to the consequence. But at the same time desired he would endeavour to make both himself and wife very easy, assuring him, on the experience of myself and others, how little room there was to be under any dismal apprehension on this account. To finish the story, his wife was soon after delivered of a fine and perfect child. Since which this lady has declared her apprehen-

sions so terrified her, she dared not to look at the child, until she collected from the conversation of her attendants that the boy's face was free from blemish. What a cruel suspense and painful sufferance must this have been to a mother !

NOT long since I was in the chamber of a lady newly delivered, her mother being present took me to the window, and in great distress acquainted me the child had a large mark upon the right side of its face, that she was terrified at the thoughts of breaking it to her daughter, and begged me to acquaint her of it. Accordingly after congratulating the good lady in the straw, upon her own health and a fine baby, in the course of conversation, I jocosely told her that we were at a loss to account for a pretty spot upon the child's face, and must desire her to inform us of the occasion of it. After a very minute recollection, she frankly con-

fessed she did not remember any one thing that she longed for during her pregnancy, neither could she any how account for the accident.

A variety of other circumstances might be enumerated to discredit, though many stories are related to confirm this wonderful affair. I shall not however introduce further particulars, though divers have happened within my notice, but conclude this letter with remarking that in every instance before related where the misfortune of a blemish was apprehended, it did not happen; and in the other cases, where marks appeared, they were intirely unexpected, and the cause of them totally unknown: which, I may venture to say, has always been the case. If therefore women would wish to be credited in these stories of frights and longings, let them declare, before they are delivered, like the two ladies mentioned in this letter,

that they have marked the child, and make known the cause of it. Nothing less can prove this fact, and till then even the possibility of it may very reasonably be doubted—for surely we may conclude so remarkable an effect of sympathy can never take place without the immediate and most certain knowledge of the mother.

LETTER II.

O F M A R K S.

CHAPTER II

of others—seeing that each member may
be an independent of the mother's image

A 2nd thing, I should not but every
woman must have a sensible of such
inclinations. I can answer for myself that
when undigested, and my stomach rather
weak, I have often been tormented, not a lit-
tle. On being oppressed of a thing that
seemed particularly to make my lady, I in-
deed I may be allowed to say that the prin-
ciple of female constitution are likely to en-
counter such inclinations to a much greater
degree, than in the male, whose appetites
are usually weak and insatiable, and as it is the
case in men, perhaps women too extravagantly
undigested. I take it for granted ladies may be
tormented very much but by such a dispo-
sition, independent of superfluous ap-
prehensions.

LETTER II.

Of Marks—shewing that such blemishes may happen independent of the mothers imagination.

AS to longings, I doubt not but every person must have been sensible of such inclinations. I can answer for myself that when indisposed, and my stomach rather weak, I have many times suffered, not a little, in being disappointed of a thing that seemed particularly to strike my fancy; surely I may be allowed to say that the prejudices of female education are likely to encourage such inclinations to a much greater degree in pregnant women, whose appetites are usually weak and fanciful; and, as it is the case in every passion when too extravagantly indulged, I take it for granted ladies may be sometimes very much hurt by such a disappointment, independent of supernatural apprehensions.

I would wish to arm every female breast with the resolution necessary for her own happiness. Yet I do not deny but upon a thousand occasions the ladies suffer, unavoidably as it were, from fear, and materially so in the present instance.

WOMEN from the delicacy of their frame, and the particular mode of education in polite countries, are without doubt much more under the dominion of fear than men; who are continually spurred on by custom and vigour to exert their courage. This renders a variety of objects, although terrible to the fair sex, so familiar to them, that contempt alone is a security against many such horrible intruders.

WE confess then that women are exceedingly subject to fear. It is also granted that, in things they long for, they may be painfully disappointed. It is not denied but that there are often times very extraor-

dinary appearances at the birth, which the fancy likens to a variety of things—but it does not follow, therefore we are not bound to believe, that such marks or blemishes are the effect of fright, or the consequence of a disappointment in the parent.

IN the first letter we gave several relations on both sides of the question : I shall now beg leave to mention a few queries, which if allowed, in my opinion, seem in part to account for these extraordinary appearances; and what cannot be illustrated upon a rational enquiry, why may we not suppose to proceed from hidden, accidental causes in the operations of nature? Since excrescences upon trees, plants, and indeed blemishes in almost every kind of animal, (of which daily experience will convince a common observer) seem strongly to authorize such a conjecture; I say, why may we not suppose this to be the true reason, with-

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out the assistance of a wonder working imagination ?

WILL not an inflammation upon the eye frequently produce an universal redness over that part which otherwise appears beautifully white ?

WHAT is the cause of this surprising alteration ?

MUST not there ever have been a fluid circulating in those tender vessels?—And must not that fluid be necessarily limpid ?

ARE not those vessels therefore, unless injured, too small to admit the sanguinary fluid in its compact and red state ?

AND does it not evidently appear that they must be considerably distended before the red blood can be admitted which denotes this inflammation ?

SAVE where the virgin blush brings the blood into the cheek, or the rosy coloured nymph rivals our courtly beauties; — does not the whiteness of the skin in almost every part of the body plainly shew that its vessels equally deny the admission of this red fluid?

WE are told by curious enquirers, that for several months after conception, the embryo receives its support from a limpid fluid, and that the form itself is nearly limpid, or colourless.

IF so, are not the vessels of an unborn child, as it arrives nearer to the birth, gradually enlarged, so as in the proper parts to give admission to this red sanguinary fluid?

MAY not therefore some accidental pressure upon a pregnant woman—the violence of a sudden jolt—or the shock received by a false step or a fall, with a variety of other

casualties, convey such an injury to the tender embryo, as upon some part of the skin to occasion a simular effect to that of the eye?

DO we not oftentimes observe inflammations of the eye to be in a manner habitual?

WHY may we not then suppose these delicate vessels when thus distended, to be so oppressed by the particles of fluid that rush into them, as never more to be able to recover their natural size?

HENCE these parts, and these parts only, giving admission to the red blood—is it not probable that they may assume the various forms, which in various infants, are imagined to resemble so many different things?

THE cure of the before mentioned inflammation of the eye, when habitual, frequent-

ly depends, not upon bleeding, but upon constringing the vessels, and restoring them to their original state, so that they again only admit their proper limpid fluids; and perhaps, if astringent applications were used at the birth, where a strong pressure could be made upon the particular part, many of these blemishes might, in a great measure if not altogether, be removed.

WE have conjectured upon the cause of such marks as are totally of, or appertaining to a red colour. But there are other blemishes which, at first sight, my readers may take for granted cannot be accounted for by this way of reasoning. Such for instance as appear of a light and dark brown, of a chocolate and black colour: nevertheless, my fair friends, permit us candidly to proceed.

A blow sometimes stains the skin yellow, if the part be much bruised the tinge

D

is deeper, and frequently turns quite black. A curious observer must have noticed in those persons who from violent blows have received black-eyes, that the skin, before it returns to its natural colour, assumes almost every tinge that the eye can fancy—all which are but different degrees of the same cause. Is it not then probable that some such accident happening to an unborn child may produce a kind of similar effect? This perhaps will be allowed: but then why should such blemishes continue in children, since they usually disappear in the case before mentioned? However to proceed in the enquiry: Such effects being admitted, their permanency then is the difficulty to be overcome. Let us consider that although in mature life, the constitution has generally strength sufficient to repel most accidents, not instantly mortal; yet in childhood, and old age, the powers of the body are overcome by very

slight injuries. Therefore in the meridian of life those parts of the body which are disfigured by accidents most commonly recover themselves; nevertheless many instances are to be produced even in adults, where the skin continues discoloured. Bruises and other injuries upon the shins, particularly in feeble and advanced life, frequently occasion marks that never disappear. The same is likewise observed upon the legs of those who are accustomed to sit too near a fire, in which case we say they have burnt their shins, and old sores generally leave such marks. I have seen many of these lasting blemishes. My readers probably recollect the fact, and also that such injured parts assume a variety of colours; black, red, brown, motley, &c. much resembling those which are supposed to proceed from the force of imagination.

SINCE therefore we find such like appearances are sometimes perpetual at all ages, what can be said to disprove their continuance in infants when supposed to happen either before or at the time of delivery? for surely we may conclude, the more delicate the form is, the more susceptible it will prove, and the injury last the longer. The tender vessels in such cases then probably not being able to recover themselves; and as we find it to be so in the feebleness of age, and in a variety of other instances,—why may we not in this also suppose the blemishes to remain and become habitual?

BUT if you think the above reasoning not sufficiently plausible, or totally inadequate to the subject, let us consider the difference of complexion in different persons of this region—and still more let us also consider the different colours of Europeans and Africans—and since we find appearances so

diametrically opposite in the skins of different persons—why may not the same contrast in some measure take place in the skin of one and the same person through a kind of error in nature from her intended scope?

NAY, do not those blemishes called freckles, and more especially moles which frequently make their first appearance in advanced life, and are often covered with hairs; I say do not these, with the common excrescencies of warts, &c. shew us how easily most of the different colours and appearances may be produced at any age? And though the cause of these is full as little known as the matter under present consideration, was the effect ever deemed miraculous?

NOW is it to be wondered at, if these sportings of nature should sometimes bear a re-

semblance to the vast variety of the animal or vegetable creation ?

OR in fact, if they bear no such real resemblance, cannot the imagination readily suppose they do ; like as when looking upon the clouds we easily discern men, horses, trees, forests, flocks of sheep, armies, and what not ?

SOME further rational conjectures might be added, but they would probably in this place be considered as too technical for the generality of my readers ; I shall therefore wave them at present, for I think there has been already enough said upon this subject to check at least, if not intirely to subdue these reigning infatuations.

NOW if the doctrine of marks in consequence of frights and longings, should prove to be nothing more than prejudice, ladies will avoid the continual distress which in

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these circumstances they labour under—for sorry I am to say it, but at present it seems as fashionable to cultivate such dispositions in young married women, as to recommend matrimony itself.

ON the other hand, supposing all that has been advanced should prove to be chimerical ; the removing of the apprehension, by which I mean the forboding fears of the mother, will remove the greatest part of the evil—and surely it is time enough at the birth to discern an imperfection.

LETTER III.

OF MISCARRIAGES.

LETTER III.

OF MISCELLANEOUS

LETTER III.

OF MISCARRIAGES.

WE are now, my delicate fair ones, entering upon a subject which requires some circumspection, to divide the province of the physician from the advice of a friend.

THERE are, undoubtedly, constitutional errors which oftentimes prevent women from becoming joyful mothers; and they may be hindered also by accidental circumstances. Both these considerations, however, belong to the physician. In a word therefore, these directions do not extend to such remote causes; my counsels being designed to assist you in your own sphere.

THE desire of children is evidently predominant in almost every female disposition;

it must be certainly owing to the wise ordination of Providence that their education is so admirably calculated to encourage this fondness. How engaging are the childish amusements of a daughter!—Let us picture an innocent little girl fondly caressing a waxen image, dressing and undressing it with all the pomp and consequence of a tender mother. What a delightful employment!—how amiable does she herself appear!—and so endearing is this female province that it is justly remarked to grow up with them into life.

I HAVE with inexpressible pleasure seen many young ladies, women grown, happily amusing themselves at their younger sisters baby house, and often discovered a crimson blush, that genuine mark of female modesty, arising from their being somewhat confused in suffering themselves to be thus unexpectedly surprised.

THERE are indeed some persons who have declared an aversion for children. I have painfully suffered from the enumeration of the difficulties, and inconveniences, which they describe parents to labour under who are blest with a little family.—Selfish and unsocial considerations !

GOD has universally manifested that the whole human race are dependant upon one another, and those persons who think and act thus narrowly, can neither be accounted good characters in themselves, nor worthy members with respect to society. But alas ! they are strangers to the feelings of parental fondness.

CERTAIN I am, ye amiable wives, that if it be your good fortune to become happy mothers—your children, dear pledges of love, if prudently educated, prove not only an engaging comfort to yourselves, but a

great and lasting security for the affections of your husbands. Trust me there is a time when the charms of beauty must cease, and the passions of youth bend to the majesty of wisdom—'tis then good-nature and good sense will in a great measure secure your conquest, and charming offsprings unite parents in the lasting bonds of friendship.

HOW prudently desirable therefore are children! Even poverty itself does not prevent the sanguine wish for them. Let us then endeavour to promote their safe and happy increase.

THE difference of constitution in women is an important affair, there are some who upon every trifling occasion are subject to miscarriages—others again, who in spite of the most indirect and powerful means, are often compelled to bear the token of un-

warrantable amours—and there are instances even of married women, who not supposing themselves to be breeding, have been treated in the most likely manner to bring on an abortion—but all in vain. A remarkable story of this kind occurs to my memory, which I relate from my own knowledge.

AN honest labouring man and his wife lived together many years without having children, and they were both beyond the meridian of life, when the poor woman was supposed to be afflicted with a dropsy. From time to time she advised with several eminent physicians, who from her appearance and the account she gave, treated her as dropsical; administering the most powerful remedies against that disorder.

AT length she grew so very big that all hopes of a cure were given over, and the operation of tapping was recommended. The

husband's circumstances being narrow, and the expence of this illness putting it out of his power to employ a surgeon, the poor woman was advised to go into the hospital; this, however, she refused.

A week or two after this, the husband called, with a most joyful countenance, to inform me his wife was brought to bed, and that both the mother and child were likely to do well. I was at that time very young, but my reflections upon the oddity of the event, determined me to be always wary in the examination of dropfical female patients.

THUS we see in this woman, and in a variety of cases which daily happen to practitioners where even an intentional miscarriage is aimed at—that nature, in spite of great violence sometimes will not be interrupted.

LET us then aim at assisting nature in this great work, where the constitution appears, perhaps, not able to go through with it; and point out the most rational means to prevent abortion.

OUR first letter over and above the enquiry concerning marks, longings, and frights, greatly tends to this material end. Women of a delicate form, and too great sensibility, are the most liable to miscarry. These women also are the most likely to imbibe, and to be affected by the prejudices we there wished to caution them against. The power of fear is undoubtedly sovereign over most persons, and such forbodings, as they frequently occasion miscarriages, are truly to be dreaded at this time. If therefore the prejudices were discountenanced, the unhappy fear itself would assuredly cease.

AND further, there is nothing more essentially tends to render life happy, either to

men or women, than to conquer, as much as possible, the passion of fear. This is the monster which in some degree, subdues us all, and too frequently makes mankind miserable. There is no calamity but would easily become supportable, could we divest ourselves of fear, and daily experience proves women to be most subject to its tortures. How many trifling insects, that a man continually spurns from him, ruffle the breast of females and throw them into the greatest agonies!

THE evil therefore is seated in the imagination, for it is the dreadful apprehension of their own mind that torments them; which by a firm and steady resolution may generally be overcome.

HOWEVER difficult the task appears, the earliest and strongest prejudices may commonly be conquered. I am sensible that

sometimes it will require great pains, and never can be done but by the strength of reason. Would you, my too susceptible fair, pursue my advice on this subject, a thousand accidents might be avoided, that hourly happen to you upon this, and many other occasions.

REASON was bestowed upon us both for the preservation of our health and the promotion of our happiness. The abuse of it as necessarily destroys the one as the other.

How do we continually reflect upon ourselves for inconveniencies, mental as well as corporeal, that arise from inconsiderateness and folly? Believe me, ladies, miscarriages are frequently brought about by imprudence. When a wife has the pleasing prospect of becoming a mother, it is no longer a time to be revelling in midnight assemblies. Such a conduct not only deprives her of natural

52 L E T T E R I I I .

rest, but also endangers her health, and thereby oftentimes promotes this dreaded evil.

IN this and every other point I beg leave to caution you against falling into wide extremes. Some ladies I have seen madly running up and down, and jumbling all the town over, in the most jolting hackney coach that can be procured; and although at the same time they complain of being shaken to pieces, yet this they say is to prevent the accident.—Others never step out of doors, nay nor so much as to go up and down a pair of stairs for several months; this also is to avoid the danger.

AGAIN let me warn you of both extremes. Be this your guide — whatever exercise you are capable of taking without fatigue, indulge—but no more. Never in

this point regard the example of others. Because your friend can do this and that, it is no reason you should; and if the attempt gives pain, it is right you should avoid it.

I NEED not caution the present age against the pernicious custom of lacing too tight; for a lass of fifteen, in the dress of our times, would in the last age have been supposed to be just at down-lying.

I DO not mean to condemn but to praise the ladies for giving themselves room in the waist, nevertheless extremes you know are not advised. There is a certain medium in every part of life, which is the *je ne sçai quoi* that constitutes the agreeable.

IT is as uncommon now to see a young girl crooked, as it formerly was to see one perfectly straight. I believe no one denies that their shapes were greatly injured by the

stiffness of their stays, and by being laced so exceedingly close. This pernicious custom was frequently the cause of a bad state of health, and threw many young women into consumptions. We now rarely see ladies fainting in public places, but when they did not allow themselves room to breathe, it happened every day. This prudent alteration therefore, so serviceable to maidens, is still more essentially necessary for married women.

THERE is another caution at this time to be observed. I have frequently beheld with pain, divers ladies too apt to be lifting and playing with heavy children. To see a delicate little form, very near her time, stop a bouncing boy, and catch him in her arms, is really an alarming sight: Many miscarriages happen from such inconsiderateness; and if our conjectures are not wrong, many blemishes also by these means are probably occasioned.

L E T T E R III. 55

BUT there is a practice indiscriminately used even to this day, worse than all the rest; and that is bleeding. Whether a woman be robust or weakly, if she is pregnant, she must be bled. Has she any pains?—No matter. Is she well in health?—Yes, But she must lose blood—Why? Because she is with child. Her mother always did it, and her grand mother, aye and her great great grandmother too, time out of mind; and therefore can the propriety of it be doubted?—These are the general arguments used by ladies in favour of bleeding.

IN our two former letters we took notice of the difficulty that attends rooting out fixed and prevailing prejudices, and I am apprehensive that this is as deeply seated in the minds of women as those of which we there treated. However, let us ask the assistance of reason also in this particular, and

search a little into the merits of the custom.

Is not the infant supported by the mother?

WHEN there are two to be supported, is not more nourishment required than for one of them only?

Is this then a time, without a real necessity, to sport with the blood of a weakly and delicate woman? No surely.

LET me therefore beg of you, my ingenious friends, to consider this matter in a rational light. I have given a plain and easy clue to pursue the enquiry, and the subject will not permit me to enter more fully into it with my fair readers, without advancing those things which may perhaps be considered as an affront to delicacy.

To your own thoughts then I commit it, and will conclude this letter with saying, that though I do not deny but there are

cases which require bleeding—yet I caution you against doing it at random, and indeed without very good advice—at the same time I firmly believe such instances rarely happen to those who are not of a robust constitution, and am fully persuaded that many persons are daily injured by this wrong practice.

LETTER

My dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the matter of the
and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

LETTER

OF MOTHERS MILK

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to the office of the
and who are to be responsible for the management of the same. The names are as follows:
1. Mr. John A. Smith
2. Mr. James B. Jones
3. Mr. William C. Brown
4. Mr. Robert D. White
5. Mr. Thomas E. Black
6. Mr. Charles F. Green
7. Mr. Henry G. Gray
8. Mr. Isaac H. White
9. Mr. Jacob I. Black
10. Mr. Joseph K. Green
11. Mr. Levi L. Gray
12. Mr. Nathan M. White
13. Mr. Oliver N. Black
14. Mr. Peter O. Green
15. Mr. Quinn P. Gray
16. Mr. Samuel Q. White
17. Mr. Theodore R. Black
18. Mr. Uriah S. Green
19. Mr. Walter T. Gray
20. Mr. Xavier U. White
21. Mr. Yoram V. Black
22. Mr. Zachary W. Green
23. Mr. Adolph X. Gray
24. Mr. Benjamin Y. White
25. Mr. Charles Z. Black
26. Mr. Daniel AA. Green
27. Mr. Edward AB. Gray
28. Mr. Frank AC. White
29. Mr. George AD. Black
30. Mr. Harry AE. Green
31. Mr. Isaac AF. Gray
32. Mr. Jacob AG. White
33. Mr. Joseph AH. Black
34. Mr. Levi AI. Green
35. Mr. Nathan AJ. Gray
36. Mr. Oliver AK. White
37. Mr. Peter AL. Black
38. Mr. Quinn AM. Green
39. Mr. Samuel AN. Gray
40. Mr. Theodore AO. White
41. Mr. Uriah AP. Black
42. Mr. Walter AQ. Green
43. Mr. Xavier AR. Gray
44. Mr. Yoram AS. White
45. Mr. Zachary AT. Black
46. Mr. Adolph AU. Green
47. Mr. Benjamin AV. Gray
48. Mr. Charles AW. White
49. Mr. Daniel AX. Black
50. Mr. Edward AY. Green
51. Mr. Frank AZ. Gray
52. Mr. George BA. White
53. Mr. Harry BB. Black
54. Mr. Isaac BC. Green
55. Mr. Jacob BD. Gray
56. Mr. Joseph BE. White
57. Mr. Levi BF. Black
58. Mr. Nathan BG. Green
59. Mr. Oliver BH. Gray
60. Mr. Peter BI. White
61. Mr. Quinn BJ. Black
62. Mr. Samuel BK. Green
63. Mr. Theodore BL. Gray
64. Mr. Uriah BM. White
65. Mr. Walter BN. Black
66. Mr. Xavier BO. Green
67. Mr. Yoram BP. Gray
68. Mr. Zachary BQ. White
69. Mr. Adolph BR. Black
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84. Mr. Quinn CG. White
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86. Mr. Theodore CI. Green
87. Mr. Uriah CJ. Gray
88. Mr. Walter CK. White
89. Mr. Xavier CL. Black
90. Mr. Yoram CM. Green
91. Mr. Zachary CN. Gray
92. Mr. Adolph CO. White
93. Mr. Benjamin CP. Black
94. Mr. Charles CQ. Green
95. Mr. Daniel CR. Gray
96. Mr. Edward CS. White
97. Mr. Frank CT. Black
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126. Mr. Levi DW. Green
127. Mr. Nathan DX. Gray
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261. Mr. Isaac JH. Black
262. Mr. Jacob JJ. Green
263. Mr. Joseph JI. Gray
264. Mr. Levi JO. White
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266. Mr. Oliver JQ. Green
267. Mr. Peter JR. Gray
268. Mr. Quinn JS. White
269. Mr. Samuel JT. Black
270. Mr. Theodore JU. Green
271. Mr. Uriah JV. Gray
272. Mr. Walter JW. White
273. Mr. Xavier JX. Black
274. Mr. Yoram JY. Green
275. Mr. Zachary JZ. Gray
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496. Mr. Oliver OH. White
497. Mr. Peter OI. Black
498. Mr. Quinn OJ. Green
499. Mr. Samuel OK. Gray
500. Mr. Theodore OL. White

LETTER IV.

OF MOTHERS MILK.

LETTER IV.

Whence will — the natural and best food for

WE have endeavored to set forth the
 indications of women requiring
 them. It is not every physician who
 can their pregnancy with such exactness
 probably, are altogether unacquainted. We
 have earnestly labored to give the
 features of each, which we have
 and language, and have copied the Latin
 into English of these women. We have
 also shown how the understanding may be
 deceived by the forms of face, and also
 let carefully marked the mistakes, custom
 of bleeding indiscriminately during preg-
 nancy — pointing out upon rational prin-
 ciple the bleeding of all, which equally in-
 jures in every part, a blood and pregnancy
 being divided against the whole.

LETTER IV.

Mothers milk — the natural and best food for infants.

WE have endeavoured to set forth the ridiculoufness of women terrifying themselves, and every body about them, during their pregnancy with evils that, most probably, are altogether imaginary. We have earnestly laboured to conquer the prejudices of marks, in consequence of frights, and longings ; and have exposed the fabulous histories of those wonders. We have also shewn how the understanding may be deceived by the forms of fancy, and have no less earnestly attacked the mistaken custom of bleeding indiscriminately, during pregnancy—pointing out upon rational principles the absurdity of all. A task equally arduous in every part, a thousand prejudices being imbibed against the whole.

ANOTHER subject at this time presents itself to view. I mean that of women suckling their own children ; against which, the present obstinately received opinions are still more unaccountable than the former, as nothing but a strange perversion of human nature could first deprive children of their mothers milk. Give me leave therefore to observe that milk is the natural support which the great author of our being has provided for our infant state ; and I am heartily sorry the present manner of bringing up children puts me, in some measure, under the necessity of proving milk to be the best food that can be given them.

MILK is a nourishment produced from the various kinds of food taken in by the mother. Her stomach breaks and digests the aliment, which, after various operations of nature, becomes so far animalized as to be a kind of white blood ; from whence,

animal bodies at all times receive their constant support, and recruit. This therefore being admitted—untill an infant's powers are sufficiently strengthened to perform so great a business as that of digestion, the mother, by an all-wise appointment, from her own breast supplies it with the means of life. Hence no other nourishment appears so proper for a new born child.

How provident is nature in all her works! How wonderfully indulgent to man, and other helpless animals in their first state of existence, by thus enabling the mother to feed her young with nourishment drawn from her own body, until such time as the offspring has obtained strength sufficient to provide for itself! This gracious bounty is abused only by man, the most intelligent of earthly beings, whose misuse of reason leads him astray, whilst humble instinct directs all other parts of the creation aright.

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IF we look around we shall find every animal that gives suck carefully fostering her young ; and other enjoyments are no more thought of, until they are capable of providing for themselves. An example by which mankind might profit much, but the strong impulse of passion in this, and many other instances, subdues our reason. Did we consider the benefit of our children more, and the indulgence of our selfish inclinations less, the race of man would be more healthy, strong and vigorous, than we can at present boast. But alas ! such is the depravity of human nature, that it would be in vain to enlarge upon this topic of complaint ; it is therefore our present business to prevent, as much as possible, the future growth of these evils.

LET us, my interested friends, compare the success of mankind with that of other animals in rearing up their young. A little observation will convince us that greater

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numbers of the human race are lost in their infancy than of any other species; for near one half the deaths, within our bills of mortality, happen below the age of five. And further, compare the opulent with the rustic, the success is still exceedingly different. How many children of the great fall victims to prevailing customs, the effects of riches? How many of the poor are saved by wanting these luxuries?

AGAIN, examine the success of such as suckle their own offspring with that of those who commit them to the care of nurses, or bring them up by hand; and we shall there likewise find an amazing difference: but more of this hereafter.

FROM these considerations, it is evident that nature is always preferable to art, whence the brute creation succeed better than the human in preserving their own

species. And the peasant, whom necessity compels to follow nature, in this respect is happier than the lord. Those mothers also who in spite of custom, pride, or indolence, will take their little babies to their breast, must have more comfort, and success, than those who cruelly consign them to the care of foster nurses; thereby denying them that food, which is not only the most proper, but is ordained likewise for their infant state.

LET me then intreat those who are desirous of rearing their children, not to rob them of the breast; would they wish them to be healthy, and beautiful, let such mothers give suck: for even wet nurses, we shall find, are very little to be depended upon.

species. And the passion, whom necessity compels to follow nature, in this respect is happier than the lord. Those mothers also, who in spite of custom, pride, or indolence, will take their little babies to their breast, must have more content, and success, than those who cruelly condemn them to the care of foster nurses, and deny them that

LETTER V.

food, which is not only the most proper, but is obtained likewise for their infant state.

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR
OF SUCKLING.

Infants of a healthy constitution, would they with them of the breast, would they with them to be healthy, and reasonable, let such mothers give suck. For even wet nurses, we shall find, are very little to be depended upon.

LETTER V.

argument in favour of feeling—as well for
the mother's sake, as the child's—and the
son to be appreciated as a thinking being
to the end of posterity.

HEALTH and beauty are desirable
and the latter is essential to women.
They must in this case be united, as it is
impossible for a woman to be truly beautiful
who wants health. Dispel the rosy
bloom upon the cheek, turn the delicate
whiteness of the skin into a yellow hue, and
destroy the enchanting lustre of the eye.
How inefficient is it for a jovial maid to
make a conquest, if she cannot keep it as a
wife!

It is not my business here to speak of the
accomplishments of the mind. How neces-
sary they are to secure the affections of a

LETTER V.

Arguments in favour of suckling—as well for the mother's sake, as the child's—and the evils to be apprehended in delivering children to the care of foster nurses.

HEALTH and beauty are desirable, and the latter in particular, to women. They must in this case be united, as it is impossible for a woman to be truly beautiful who wants health. Disease blights the rosy bloom upon the cheek, turns the delicate whiteness of the skin into a fallow hue, and destroys the enchanting lustre of the eye. How insufficient is it for a lovely maid to make a conquest, if she cannot keep it as a wife!

IT is not my business here to speak of the accomplishments of the mind. How necessary they are to secure the affections of a

husband, every prudent woman knows. And she must be equally sensible that the elegance of her person is also to be regarded; an advantage which those who are in a bad state of health have scarcely spirits to attend to: besides, illness too often renders the sweetest dispositions cross, and peevish.

THOSE who are happy enough to have children, run the greatest risque, not only of losing them, but of destroying their own health and beauty, by repelling their milk immediately after delivery. It never can be done without producing a fever. Oftentimes tumours, and cancers in the breast, owe their origin to this pernicious custom; asthmatical complaints, and lingering diseases are frequently occasioned by it, and too commonly, the immediate death of the mother follows from such ill management.

CONSIDER, my fair pupils, for your own healths sake, and for the sake of your future

happiness, how necessary it is to preserve such dear pledges of mutual love. By these powerful ties, many a man, in spite of impetuous passions, is compelled to continue the prudent, kind, indulgent, tender husband. Did you but thoroughly know the secret impulses of the human heart, you would not risk the loss of your children, by unnaturally denying them the means of life.

LET not the mistaken husband insinuate that you will be less charming in his sight by doing your duty to your little ones; many—many instances have I known of weakly and delicate women, who, at my particular request, have suckled their children, and thereby obtained a much better state of health; nay they have been more pleasing in their persons, after thus becoming happy mothers, and their husbands have, with pleasure, acknowledged their improved charms.

THERE may be some cases in which it is not prudent for a mother to give suck, but these instances very rarely happen; and there may be some women, who, although they are ever so desirous, cannot suckle; this however is but seldom to be urged. I sincerely sympathise with those unfortunate ladies who are thus deprived of a happiness, only known to those that enjoy it. I am at a loss what to say under these necessitous circumstances, whether to advise such mothers, to employ a wet nurse; or to bring their children up under their own management, according to proper rules which shall be laid down in a following letter. They are both in my opinion wretched necessities. Was it an infant of my own, I believe, I should prefer the latter; for much is to be apprehended from a child's sucking a strange woman.

Too often, diseases, and those of the worst kind, are imbibed from the breast. It is a

shocking truth, but vicious inconstancy is become so universal, even amongst the lower rank of people, that many women offer themselves and are daily employed as wet nurses, who are laboring under dreadful and infectious diseases. Yet supposing you can arrive at a satisfactory assurance in this point, there is a certain cleansing quality in the milk of a woman immediately after child bearing, exceedingly necessary for the newborn babe, in order to prepare its stomach and bowels for future food—this you very rarely can obtain from a wet nurse.

THERE is yet a further evil to be dreaded; as it is through necessity alone that a woman will desert her own infant, and take another to her breast, she may be induced, by the advantage she gains, to conceal her being again with child, and continue to suckle the infant until it pines away, and dies

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for want of proper nourishment. Thousands have been sacrificed by these means.

SHOULD they however escape, in either case they are, too generally, miserable beings; for in consequence of the first, diseases of the glands, known by the vulgar name of the kings evil, and other terrible complaints succeed: and in the latter, the rickets, watery gripes, and many other maladies, proceeding from a weakly, and relaxed habit of body, most commonly ensue.

ON the other hand, disease and death are the usual consequences of the present erroneous method of bringing children up by hand. Scarcely one in four of these little innocents live to get over the cutting of their teeth; and the vitiated blood of those that escape, occasioned by improper nourishment, generally renders them infirm, or short lived.

• SUCH are the melancholy prospects attending the present unnatural practice of wet, and dry nursing; whence a curse is oftentimes entailed upon a generation, of which parents ought to esteem themselves the authors. How terrible soever these things appear, I esteem it my duty to acquaint mothers in particular, what a risk they run in thus hazarding the health, and lives of their children; and sincerely hope I may imprint the same objections upon them, that daily experience in my profession presents to me, against these pernicious customs. Almost every complaint to which children are subject, appears to me, to proceed originally from an improper management of them; for the young of all other animals are full of health and vigour.

O! THAT I could prevail upon my fair countrywomen to become still more love-

ly in the sight of men! Believe it not, when it is insinuated, that your bosoms are less charming, for having a dear little cherub at your breast. I speak from the feelings of a man, and of one too who has an universal, and generous love for the virtuous part of your sex. Trust me, there is no husband could withstand the fond solicitations of an endearing wife, would she be earnest in her desire of bringing up her own children. Rest assured, when he beholds the object of his soul, cherishing and supporting in her arms the propitious reward of wedlock, and fondly traces his own lineaments in the darling boy, it recalls a thousand delicate sensations to a generous mind. Perhaps he drops a sympathetic tear in recollecting the painful throes of the mother, which she cheerfully bore to make him such an inestimable present. His love, tenderness, and gratitude, being thus engaged—with what raptures must he behold her, still

carefully intent upon the preservation of his own image?

HOW ardent soever such an one's affections might be before matrimony, a scene like this will more firmly rivet the pleasing fetters of love;—for though a beautiful virgin must ever kindle emotions in a man of sensibility; a chaste, and tender wife, with a little one at her breast, is certainly, to her husband, the most exquisitely enchanting object upon earth:—and surely, ladies, had fashion but established this laudable custom amongst you, it would prove so truly amiable, as not only to excite the emulation of your maiden friends to worthy conquests, but also raise their ambition to shine in characters thus dignified. How greatly then would you contribute to the felicity of your own families, and of mankind in general!

LETTER V.

Carefully intent upon the preservation of his
own image.

How indeed to preserve such an image, and
to be able to do so, he must be in a position
to do so with more than the pleasure
of the moment.

LETTER VI.
The first of these is to be in a position
to do so with more than the pleasure
of the moment.

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE
FROM THE

It is not only to be in a position to do so
but to be able to do so with more than the
pleasure of the moment.

It is not only to be in a position to do so
but to be able to do so with more than the
pleasure of the moment.

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pleasure of the moment.

LETTER VI.

THE MANAGEMENT OF INFANTS
FROM THE BIRTH.

LETTER VI.

THE MANAGEMENT OF INFANTS
FROM THE BIRTH

LETTER VI.

*The management of infants from the birth—
with directions for putting them to the breast.*

HAPPY, thrice happy woman, now become a joyful mother, nurturing her young! Say, tell me, you who know the rapturous delight, how complete is the bliss of enfolding in your longing arms, the dear dear fruits of all your pains?—pains now no more remembered. Long may you preserve the darling, and be doubly blest in it's future beauty, health, and virtue!

I AM not unmindful, my charming friends, of the prejudices necessary to be conquered, before so material a benefit to mankind, as that which I am to picture out in this letter, can be generally obtained. In my last, the misfortunes attending the neglect of this duty were fully explained, and

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as I have frequently succeeded amongst the private circle of my friends, by addressing their understanding, I trust to the candour of the most ingenuous sex, for my success in public. My endeavour therefore throughout shall be to convince you that I have reason and truth on my side. Happy then shall I think myself, and amply rewarded for my trouble, if I am fortunate enough to meet with your approbation: as your observance of the rules laid down in this little manual must necessarily follow. Much depends upon your maternal care in the first stage of life, it is a pleasing duty, to which you are honourably called upon, both by nature, and the custom of all nations.

I AM truly sensible that, according to the present manner of suckling and rearing children, the business is a fatigue which frightens many; it is a method altogether culpable and unnatural. To this letter nar-

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ticularly belongs the first management of them. In my next I shall point out the subsequent errors, and lay down some general rules, that will not only prove beneficial to the child, but make the task of suckling, easy, and delightful to the mother: even the polite and gay may chearfully undertake this, at present, laborious employment, without greatly interfering with a social life, for the gloomy ideas of a nursery will vanish. The paths of nature are easy, and delightful. Come then, my fair, and let us follow her, step by step.

WE have before observed that a child brings its immediate nourishment into the world with its birth. Man is born in sorrow. The fatigue, and pain of delivery, both to the mother, and the child, require rest; and generally where no improper means are used, they both directly fall into a sweet refreshing sleep; during which time

the milky vessels of the breast are dilated. Thus with prudent management, in a short time, a small flow of milk will be obtained. The child, replete with nourishment at its birth, awakes equally refreshed with the mother, and by eagerly sucking the nipple encourages its more plentiful supply.

SOMETIMES there may be a little inconvenience with the first child, but this is rendered still greater by keeping it away, perhaps two, or three days, from the mother, and suffering her attendants to draw her breasts. The gentle easy and frequent suction of an infant, will not only gradually invite the milk, thereby relieving the mother from a troublesome burthen; but the nipple also, by this means, will be drawn out, so that the child may suck without further difficulty. This is the lesson nature teaches, and wise are those who observe her precepts.

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AS to its cloathing, the lighter it is, and the more unconfined the better; very little covering is necessary, and the future deformities of shape, &c. not to mention the deplorable loss of health, sometimes proceed from the dress being too heavy, and confined.

I AM intirely against an infant's receiving any nourishment untill it can be put to the breast; and much more so against cramming it with what nurses call pap. The stomach is not yet fit for any other food than what nature has prepared. Art cannot produce a diet with that affinity to animal blood, as to render it proper for the tender bowels of a new born child.

THE cries of an infant are generally occasioned by the uneasiness it suffers, either from its dress, or in consequence of thus cramming it. The complaints of children in these early days, as I before observed,

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and likewise the difficulty in cutting of teeth, which I shall hereafter speak of, proceed almost intirely from this wrong practice. Watery gripes, offensive stools, and most disorders in their bowels, are altogether occasioned by improper food.

CUSTOM has rendered this ridiculous practice so universal, that the good women continually complain it is impossible for a child to remain without food, till the milk comes. Let any mother make a trial, and experience will convince her of the truth of our maxim.

HOW are other animals supported? Nature, in no one part of the creation, is so imperfect, as to be indebted to the wisdom of man to rectify her works. And suppose a case, in which the milk does not flow so soon as in general it is expected, let the child under such circumstances, be put to the

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breast again, and again; a very little nourishment will at present suffice, and that will most commonly be obtained from the nipple: if it is not, a little warm milk and water, with a small quantity of Lisbon sugar, is the only nourishment, in my opinion, that is proper to be given. Follow, my dear ladies, these rules, and where there are an hundred accidents that now happen to mothers, in consequence of milk fevers; and to children, in consequence of being denied the breast, you will rarely find one. I am convinced of the truth of my assertion, by experience, and therefore am the more bold in recommending it to the public.

LETTER VI

dear friend, and again, a very kind
advice will be of great service, and that will
not commonly be of much use to you.
It is not, as you say, that I have
not with a small quantity of I have
is the only recommendation in my opinion,
that is proper to be given. Follow, my dear
friend, that rule, and whatever is an
expected accident that may happen to me,
it is in consequence of this I have
to explain, in consequence of being
the first, you will say, and one I am
opposed of the case of my friend,
experience, and I have seen the many
is recommending it to the public.

LETTER VII.

A NATURAL AND EASY METHOD
OF SUCKLING CHILDREN.

LETTER VII.

A NATURAL AND EASY METHOD
OF TEACHING CHILDREN

LETTER VII.

A natural and easy method of suckling children—This duty proved to be a pleasure rather than a fatigue.

NOW then, my dearly interested friends, let us observe those parts of the creation where instinct only can direct, and for once learn a lesson from the tender brute. Behold those animals which are familiar to us, how successful they are in bringing up their young! Animals that give milk to three, four, five, six, and sometimes more offsprings of a birth. How well and happy are the dams! What care do they take of their nurslings! They never desert them, until time has given to their bodies strength sufficient to provide for themselves. Provident nature!—and shall mankind alone distrust thy goodness? Let us learn and be wise. Never more suffer it to pass for an

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argument, that a woman who is capable of bearing a child, has not strength to suckle it, when the little creatures that surround us can rear a whole family at once.

O THAT I could convince you of the breast alone being a sufficient support for the most robust of children ! Consider nature well in all her works ! Let ignorance and prejudice no longer prevail ! Believe this solemn truth, almost every woman is capable of supporting her babe ; and great will prove the advantages, both to herself and her infant. When it is confined altogether to the breast, it gains strength every day, and defies disease. The mother, under these circumstances, would not again conceive so quickly, and miscarriages would thereby be in a great measure prevented ; unless hurried on by frequent bleedings, and other bad practices.

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IF, for the sake of your families, you value your own lives, attend to this fact. You yourselves know how many women are ruined in their health, and what numbers are continually sacrificed by these unfortunate accidents. You may—you should support them, the task is easy and delightful, and the thriving child rewards your pains. It is not laborious. I would not wish to see you slaves. The tender delicacy of your frame forbids the very thought. The method is plain and easy—only follow a ture.

SLEEP is essentially necessary to life, and that the stomach should sometimes be at rest, is as essentially necessary to health; both these things the mother and child equally require. Thus the slavish part of the business is set aside, for it is an absurd, and erroneous custom, after stuffing it continually in the day, to keep a child at the

breast all night. This counter-acts the operations of nature, not only by depriving it of its rest, but also, from a constant fullness, the powers of the infant-body are prevented from exerting themselves in a proper manner upon the aliment received. Hence the stomach and bowels are enfeebled, and thereby rendered incapable of producing such wholesome nourishment as a child would otherwise obtain from its food: to which grand purpose, sound sleep, and abstinence are equally conducive.

ON the other hand the mother, being continually disturbed during the night, is also prevented from assimilating that good and perfect milk, which would otherwise be produced from the food of the day. Hence she becomes ill, grows tired of her task, and the crude milk proves noxious to the weakened bowels of the infant. Thus

disappointment and death frequently succeed.

I KNOW it will be urged by some that it is impossible to keep children quiet and at rest during the night, and that they cry for food. Let them be managed from the birth according to the direction I shall lay down, and then I believe few persons will complain of their being troublesome. One reason why children do not sleep well by night is, that they are indulged too much in the cradle by day, when they should have exercise. Another still greater reason I am inclined to think, proceeds from pain, occasioned by improper food in the first passages, for I will venture to affirm that almost every child's bowels, from the present wrong management, are in a state of disease, which too frequently grows up with it into life; and thus in infancy the lurking

cause of a bad constitution is oftentimes established.

WHEN their little stomachs, irritated by too large a quantity, and the bad quality of food, become somewhat empty; a pain, probably like what we call the heart burn, and acidities at the stomach, awakens them from their disturbed slumbers; and these little creatures can then only discover their uneasiness by crying. Hence nurses, partly for their own quiet, and partly through a mistaken notion that children cry only for nourishment, cram them untill they are quite gorged. Such infants eagerly devour whatever is given them, because the reception of food takes off that too great sensibility of the stomach which caused the pain. A similar effect to this, grown persons troubled with the complaints I have now mentioned, must every day experience upon taking nourishment; for it always affords a present relief.

FOUR or five times in the twenty four hours are sufficient for a child to receive the breast, and let the following rules be nearly observed. About six or seven in the morning, after which the child may be allowed an hour or two's sleep ;—again, an hour after the mother has breakfasted—and a third time, if she pleases, before dinner—a fourth time, at five or six o'clock in the evening, being two or three hours after dinner—and lastly, between ten and eleven, just before she goes to rest.

NOW, by those mothers who have servants to take off the laborious part of the management of children, this surely cannot be deemed a fatigue ; that the task itself is a pleasure, the fondness of nurses towards children at the breast fully proves ; and that it is an indispensable duty, the feelings of human nature explain.

IN the early months sleep may be indulged during the day, but exercise should also between whiles be given to children. As they grow stronger, sleep should be less encouraged, and exercise encreased.

THERE are several points of management that I have no fault to find with, and, amongst others, think it needless to dwell upon the necessity of keeping children dry and clean. It is so evident, that few nurses are culpable in these particulars. As to rocking children, the custom is altogether absurd, it was invented only to save their attendants trouble, for which, by the bye, they in return suffer. Infants, if well, sleep without this lullaby-labour, and such forced dosings generally render them peevish, and watchful in the night; which is the most proper time both for them, and their nurses to enjoy their rest.

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AT the end of six or seven months, when the four first teeth ought to appear, children should be kept awake, and exercised as much as possible; by which time, if managed properly, they will generally gain strength enough to shoot these teeth, and the others will in due course be cut with ease.

THUS you will avoid an evil that sweeps away great numbers, of which, however, I shall speak more fully in another letter, for it is intirely owing to the weakness of their bodies that children cut their teeth with so much difficulty, and that it is attended with fever, convulsions, and death.

THIS weakness of body is but little understood, for if a child be bloated with fat, which too generally happens, the parents and their friends call it a fine child, and admire how it thrives. When alas! that very fat is the disease which renders its consti-

tution thus feeble, for if the butcher did not kill lambs and calves when they become immoderately fat, they likewise would die as frequently as children. Which death may be justly attributed to the preposterous method so generally in use, of giving them too much improper nourishment; and not managing them in other respects as nature requires, to strengthen the body from the food received.

LETTER VIII.

THE PROPER METHOD OF WEANING CHILDREN.

LETTER VIII.

The proper method of weaning children.

IN my last letter I condemned the present erroneous method of suckling and feeding children, and set forth the plain and easy way of rearing them to six or seven months old, upon a rational plan pointed out by nature in many different parts of the creation; and which most probably was strictly followed by mankind in the early ages of the world, e'er luxury, pride, and indolence, crept into society. Antient history never could have boasted of so many strong and valiant men, had not mothers, in their infancy, given strength and vigour to their constitutions; and the cause of the present pusillanimous, feeble, weakly, and diseased race of mortals, may in a great measure be ascribed to the want of this earliest maternal care.

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LET us talk with the plain and simple husbandman, who has a nursery of trees under his direction; he will tell us it is not sufficient for the stocks to be good of their kind, for unless they be secured from rude winds, and properly cultivated so that they may receive nourishment, they will never thrive.

IT is literally the same in animal life, there are unfortunate mothers who daily and woefully experience the truth of his argument. How many women are blest with fine children, not a blemish nor the mark of a disease about them at their birth; and yet before many months are past, for want of prudent care and proper nourishment, do they not waste away and die? I need not say more, the tears of many of my gentle readers at the unhappy recollection will sufficiently testify the fact. May such tears prove a warning for their future conduct, and,

trust me, my honoured matrons, your sorrow will be turned into joy—a joy of the tenderest nature, generous and truly laudable!

LET not man in the vanity of his heart triumph in a superiority over the fair sex, for to them alone it belongs to lay the foundation, not of what he is, but what he should be—healthy, strong, and vigorous. You, ladies, form an hero in the cradle, and courage is received from the breast. Gratitude in return demands a protection to you from man. With yourselves therefore it remains to render him capable of that protection. Thus nature, my fair ones, ordained your importance in the creation.

BUT to return to the husbandman, he will again tell us that when his trees have received their infant strength, and their roots begin to shoot, it is necessary to trans-

plant them from the nursery to a more extensive soil, in order to arrive at their natural perfection. So you, my friends, having brought the child through its infant state, by the tender nourishment of the breast, must at the time of weaning, (which in my opinion is best postponed until it be about a twelvemonth old) transplant your little nursery likewise to a more extensive soil. That is, you must afford it more copious nourishment, in order to bring it to maturer life.

YET, as great skill, and caution, are required on the part of the husbandman, in this business of transplanting, so great judgment, and care, must be shewn by you, in this your province of weaning children; for custom has so far deviated from nature, as to render the greatest circumspection necessary to point out the happy medium.

A further care therefore at this time demands our attention. Man, according to the present mode, particularly in England, is greatly supported by animal food. A sudden transition from one extreme to another is always dangerous, and every material alteration, to avoid inconveniences, should be brought about step by step. If nature ever intended us to destroy the animals around us for prey, surely we may conclude, flesh never could be designed for our use until such time as we had teeth to eat it.

MANY ill consequences arise from persons devouring their meals too eagerly, and if the stomachs of men are oppressed, by not sufficiently chewing their meat, certainly the weak and tender stomachs of children, who have not as yet teeth sufficient to break it, must be still less fit to receive it altogether whole.

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FLESH then at this time of life is absolutely forbidden, from reason and reflection ; but as it is in some measure necessary to prepare them for their future method of living, broths and jellies may be now given sparingly, and as they encrease in strength and age, more plentifully. Hereby the animal juices are received, which contain the only nourishment in flesh, without any labour to the stomachs ; and let it be remembered that the juices of full grown animals are to be preferred, to the younger, and fattened kind ; but more of this in its proper place.

LET children at this time be fed once or twice a day with about a quarter of a pint of broth, and a little bread mixed in it. When you give a stiff jelly, a large tea cup full is sufficient, but I would recommend as much warm water, or milk with it, and likewise a little bread. The breast should

not be allowed them now so often as when they were wholly confined to it; in short every meal that you thus introduce, should supply one of the stated times of suckling. Thus are they gradually and insensibly weaned from the breast, and accustomed to animal food, without any pining on their parts, or much trouble to the mother.

HAVING shewn the proper manner of putting a child to the breast, and likewise the most prudent method of taking it away; we shall in the next letter point out the safest rules for bringing children up by hand; but another observation or two will not be improper in this place.

THE gravy which runs out of meat upon cutting it when brought to table is exceedingly wholesome, being nothing more than the pure juices of flesh. A few spoonfuls of this beef or mutton gravy, mixed with an

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equal quantity of warm water, and a little salt, make very good broth. I mention this, because parents generally imagine it to be unwholesome for children, and oftentimes when I have recommended it, some good old lady has stoutly opposed me, alledging that it fills a child with humours, when it is the only part of flesh that produces good nourishment.

HERE let me protest against the custom of not suffering children to eat salt, for fear of the scurvy; not making a distinction between salted meats, and salt eaten with meat. In this point also strong prejudices are frequently to be combatted with, for many a time have I been told by persons of reverent years, that children were not suffered to eat salt in former days; adding, perhaps with a significant shrug, that the present age think themselves much wiser than their forefathers.

L E T T E R VIII. III

“FLESH which has been any considerable time in salt becomes hard, and requires more force to break and digest it, proper for nourishment, than weak stomachs are capable of exerting; consequently, salted beef, pork, and such like things are improper for children,”

NEVERTHELESS, salt in itself is so far from producing the scurvy, that it is now generally supposed to be its greatest antidote; otherwise, why do so many thousands yearly flock to bathe, and drink sea water? There is, further, a certain stimulating quality in salt, that greatly promotes digestion; and whatsoever assists that office, must of course rather contribute to purify the blood than to render it foul; which is the supposed cause, of the present frequently imagined but oftentimes only a fashionable disease—called the scurvy.

I HAVE been frequently thanked for the following information. A handful of salt

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put into a quart of spring water is a most excellent wash to cleanse the skin. It is this cleansing quality of salt that makes the sea water so useful to those who are troubled with eruptions ; therefore by the above proportion, the water is rendered still more efficacious, and will clear the face and neck of heats and pimples, which so frequently disturb the ladies.

LETTER IX.

THE SAFEST METHOD OF BRING-
ING CHILDREN UP BY HAND.

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LETTER IX.

The safest method of bringing children up by hand.

WE have hitherto, my fair philosophers, been carefully observant of, and obedient to, the laws of nature. Her paths are infinitely various. Every step we take affords new and engaging prospects. We have traced man from the first period of his existence, and have followed reason and instinct, to give him strength and vigour in the earliest part of life. So fair a dawning promises a robust and healthy constitution; nevertheless necessity obliges a further speculation.

LET it therefore be the business of this letter to enquire how nearly art can supply nature. Let us endeavour to point out a method to those unfortunate mothers, who are through necessity deprived of the happy

enjoyment of suckling their own children. It may not prove unworthy the attention of those who, by choice, commit them to the care of others. I propose to carry my observations in this letter, as far as my instructions have been given to the valuable and truly praise-worthy matrons, whose duty to their family over ballances every other consideration. By and by, when the suckling is about to be weaned, and the dry-nursed child brought equally forward, the rules of diet will be the same for both; on which account I went no further in my last, than the proper period for introducing broths, jellies, &c. All other considerations will be brought under general directions.

MOTHERS milk, we have shewn to be the natural and most proper support for tender infants, because it is a digested fluid, already animalized, and therefore fittest for the nourishment of children. This remark

also shews that the infant body is, by nature, designed to receive only a liquid nourishment ; a hint necessary to be attended to, as it altogether obviates the general objections against confining children to milk, in preference to thicker victuals, of which I shall speak more fully before I conclude this letter.

WE have taken notice how tender the stomachs and bowels of infants are, and have thence inferred, that almost every complaint they are afflicted with proceeds from the improper quality of their food ; and the too large quantity given them, also encreases the disease. We took notice that the digestive powers of a new born child are incapable of producing a kind nutriment even from bread, and therefore exclaimed against feeding them with what is called pap. But suppose it to be otherwise. What poor pittance does such a mother allow to

her child, who gives it only bread and water?

I HAVE seen many fatal instances of such strange management. We ourselves should think it hard indeed, and nothing but dire necessity could compel us to live thus sparingly; besides, how would our flesh waste and our strength decay. If so, surely it cannot be proper for an infant, whose bones have as yet not strength sufficient to support its frame. How is it possible for a child to thrive under such treatment?—Perhaps some will allow a little milk to be mixed with its food, but very sparingly, because, forsooth, it stuffs their stomachs, and fills them full of phlegm. Idle and ridiculous are these, and all other arguments that can be urged against this natural and salubrious diet.

I SPEAK of milk here in general terms, because I intend in a subsequent letter to

examine the several properties of different milks, and to remark the purpose to which each kind seems best adapted. Cows milk being mostly used, and in my opinion the properest, in general, to answer our present purpose, I would therefore be understood to recommend that, if no other kind is particularly mentioned.

I KNOW very well many will object, and perhaps some gentlemen in the practice of physick will differ from me in opinion, when I prefer cows milk to every other kind of nourishment, in the early months, where it is necessary to bring a child up by hand. Let me beg of them only to make the experiment, and if they have reason to censure me afterwards, I shall stand convicted; till then, at least, I shall hope for candour from every one.

IT has frequently been suggested to me, that cows milk is too rich, abounding also

with too much cream, and that being of a fat oily nature, will relax more than strengthen. This fault is not much to be apprehended from the milk used in and about London. Supposing it to be the case in the country, which I am far from allowing, you may let it stand untill the cream rises to the top, and use the skimmed milk ; or by boiling, deprive it of the greatest part of this oily quality, which collects itself upon the surface, and may then be readily taken off ; or it may be diluted with water.

THESE doubts being removed, the milk of cows appears, I think, to be the properest substitute we can make for that of the breast ; and will answer best when given without boiling, unless it purges the child, in which case boiling it will generally prevent the inconvenience, proceeding in all likelihood from its oily parts. I have no objection to a small quantity of Lisbon sugar being mixed with it, particularly if the child be col-

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tive; and indeed this may frequently be of use, to prevent its too great tendency to become acid, from whence disorders of the bowels sometimes arise.

ONE remark I shall beg leave to make, which comes in here with propriety. We have taken notice in a former letter of the cleansing quality of mothers milk, upon its first coming into the breast. Now, where children are debarred from receiving it, a substitute of some gentle purgative is highly proper, to give such a stimulus to the bowels as nature has provided by the mothers means. What I have experienced to be the best calculated for answering this purpose, is something of the following kind.

SUPPOSE we say, *syrup of violets and oil of almonds, of each one ounce, with four or five grains of rhubarb.* This composition being shaken, will pretty well unite. A tea spoonful may be given as often as you find it necessary.

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IN case the milk be thrown up in a curdled state, a small quantity of salt will often prevent it. A circumstance I would wish to have attended to, as many children are subject to this complaint, and it is a method I have seldom known to fail.

WHAT we have next to observe, is the quantity of milk proper to be given to a new born child, in the twenty-four hours. What think you, my dear ladies, of a Winchester pint being a sufficient quantity for the day and night? Methinks I hear an exclamation — O barbarous man ! Under a pretence of correcting us, he intends to starve the little helpless creatures. Was there ever such a cruelty heard of before? Allow a child only a pint of milk in a day ! Why it would eat two quarts of pap, and still cry for more. Yet, after all surprise, an infant in the month will receive from one pint of milk, more real, and good nourishment, than from ten quarts of pap, as it is called.

THERE are, as we have mentioned, very great errors in the quantities as well as the qualities of infant food. It was before observed, that childrens stomachs should not be always crammed. Unto this it is in a great measure owing that they are so continually puking. A circumstance looked upon by some to be natural, and wholesome, who preposterously encourage this disposition, by frequent vomits. But surely, nature never intended more nourishment to be received, than is necessary for our support. Does any person in a good state of health, after a moderate and proper meal, ever find an inclination to throw it up again? How therefore can it be supposed natural for children to do so? A little reflection would soon convince such superficial observers of their error, for you will rarely find a child throw up its food when properly nursed.

IF one pint of milk, therefore, in the first week or two, be too little, it is an error on

the right side, for it appears to be enough to support it, and much worse consequences are to be apprehended from giving it too much. We must, every one of us, have often experienced how necessary it is to be hungry, in order to relish our food; and that to be continually indulging, palls the appetite. Then, surely, it must be equally necessary that the infant stomach should sometimes know the sense of hunger.

WOULD not three or four pints of milk in the twenty-four hours support a grown person? If so, undoubtedly one third part is amply sufficient to nourish a new born child. But I would not be understood to cavil scrupulously for a spoonful or two, I only mean to assist the candid enquirer, in this most essential part of the management of children, who are denied the breast.

WE come next to the proper quantity to be given for a meal. A quarter of a pint

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is fully sufficient to be taken at a time, and the hours of feeding, as well as every other particular, should be regulated, according to the rules laid down in the seventh letter. In ten days, or a fortnight, you may encrease the daily allowance a quarter of a pint—and by the end of a month, you may allow a pint and an half in the twenty-four hours—another half pint may be gradually permitted by the time it is three months old, and this quantity, if the child is voracious, may be still encreased to three pints in the day; which I am perswaded, if the milk be good, will prove sufficient: and this allowance will, I hope, cancel the severity of every matrons censure.

HAVING now given you my thoughts upon this part of infant management, there is but one rational objection that strikes me against the propriety of so plain, and simple a method of bringing children up by hand.

Their natural food is allowed to be milk— but it may be urged that the human milk, in consequence of the mothers diet, is more strengthening than that of cows, asses, &c. Granted—but then again this argument equally proves that cows milk partakes more of a vegetable nature than the human; and, during the first months, all that the advocates for the present custom would contend for, is—what? pap, panado, &c. which are altogether vegetable; and therefore their arguments require no farther answer. Was it proposed to add some proper broths to cows milk, after the first four or five weeks, where there is no circumstance particularly to forbid it, the design would appear reasonable, in supplying the supposed deficiency of animal property; and it is a point I would readily join in, nay it is what I mean to recommend towards the end of the third month. I frequently order milk and broth to be mixed together, and think it proper food. But let every such meal, however, as

before advised, supply the place of the usual milk. In whatever way you manage children, be careful not to feed them overmuch.

THERE is yet a circumstance of great moment to be attended to, and if rightly comprehended by my fair pupils, will convince them the earliest allowance is sufficient. It is the manner in which infants ought to be fed.

SURELY it is wrong to put a large boat full of pap into their little mouths, suffering them to swallow the whole of it in the space of a minute; and then perhaps, from their cries, to ply them with a second, which is no sooner down than thrown up again.

WE have mentioned the ill consequences of grown persons devouring their victuals too eagerly, and experience must often have convinced every one, that a much less quan-

tity than we generally take, if eaten leisurely, and well chewed, will suffice for a meal; and also, that after such meals, we seem more comfortable, and are inclined to pursue either business, or pleasure, with far greater ease to ourselves. On the contrary, from a too hasty, and hearty meal, the stomach will be distended overmuch, which is always productive of indolence, and tendency to sleep. The same must certainly hold good with infants.

BESIDES, to obtain milk from the breast, nature wisely obliges them to earn their nourishment by the labour of drawing it. The stream being exceedingly small, it requires a long time to procure a quarter of a pint; and the very exercise fatigues before they have received too much. This, in my opinion, fully proves that quantity to be sufficient for a meal.

THERE is nothing therefore wanting, I hope, to compleat our system, but a contri-

vance to supply the place of the nipple, that the child may still labour to obtain its support; which alone will greatly prevent the error in quantity. I have seen some inventions of this kind, by means of parchment or leather sewed to the pointed end of an horn, which is no bad thought, and capable of great improvement. The Hollanders, when they travel, have a small pewter vessel, somewhat in the form of a cone, which is filled with milk, and a piece of sponge covered with a linnen cloth is tied over the smaller end. This serves the children very well as an artificial nipple: for it is observed that a Dutch woman seldom or never gives suck to her child before strangers.

WE have plainly demonstrated that infant nourishment, particularly in the early months, is designed by nature to be altogether liquid — against such contrivances, therefore, I cannot see an objection.

WOULD you, my fair friends, undertake this pursuit, from the happy fertility of female imagination, I am certain a little experience would point out to you a ready and convenient method, to answer every purpose; and I am thoroughly satisfied the happy consequences would amply reward your pains—by preserving many dear little innocents, that daily fall a sacrifice to repletion or over feeding.

WOULD you, my dear friends, undertake
this point, from the happy fertility of fe-
male imagination, I am certain a little ex-
perience would point out to you a ready and
convenient method to answer every pur-
pose; and I am thoroughly satisfied the
happy influence of a mother's example
will be a powerful aid to the many good
instructions which I shall have to re-
commend to your attention.

LETTER X.

A GENERAL MANAGEMENT OF
CHILDREN, FROM THE TIME OF
WEANING, UNTIL THEY ARE A-
BOUT TWO YEARS OLD.

LETTER X.

A general management of children, from the
time of weaning, until they are about two
years old—will be of great service in the
of teeth.

I AM now engaged in a journey,
where, with sincere pleasure, I behold a
happy mother with a healthy child, the puppet at
her breast, which she has the satisfaction of
laving in its earliest age. I have acquired a
section, and rendering it an infant born
under the most favorable circumstances, when the
mother herself was afflicted with a terrible
quincy in her throat, and had been con-
fined to a sick chamber five or six weeks be-
fore her delivery. No one expected the life
of the child, and the mother's was equally
doubtful. Nothing but the greatest care
on her part could have saved the infant,
and had it been compared to any other per-

LETTER X.

A general management of children, from the time of weaning, until they are about two years old—with observations upon the cutting of teeth.

I AM just now returned from a nursery, where, with sincere pleasure, I beheld a happy mother with a pretty little puppet at her breast, which she had the satisfaction of saving in its earliest days, by her amiable affection, and tenderness. An infant born under melancholy circumstances, when the mother herself was afflicted with a terrible quincy in her throat, and had been confined to a sick chamber five or six weeks before her delivery. No one expected the life of the child, and the mother's was equally doubtful. Nothing but the greatest care on her part could have saved the infant; and had it been committed to any other per-

son, the diseased state of its bowels at the birth would, probably, very soon have put a period to its existence.

JUDGE, ye considerate fair, indulge with me the pleasing reflections of this good woman ! Behold her, fondling at the breast a smiling boy, to whom she not only gave a being, but generously preferred his welfare, and dared, even contrary to the advice of her friends, to suckle him ; thereby endangering her own, to preserve the life of her child. May gratitude, and duty, expand within his little breast, and prompt him virtuously to reward this truly maternal affection ! May he in future years become the pleasure and support of her declining life !

THIS amiable mother has three other little ones, that for health and beauty, stand almost unrivalled. All nurtured under her own wing—supported by her breast. What an encouragement is this to follow nature !

Her heart was never torn by the bitter reflection of not having done her duty to her family. Example glorious! worthy of praise —worthy of imitation.

BUT to return to our present point, the suckling being weaned, and the dry nursed child brought equally forward; we shall now join our different nurseries together, and endeavour to make them thrive under one general direction.

I MUST however beg leave to premise, that as I before advised to have the child kept to the breast till it is a twelvemonth old, and have also pointed out the prudent manner of introducing broths, &c. preparative to weaning it intirely; so this letter is designed to recommend a proper management from one to two years of age.

THE best method likewise having been laid down for bringing children up by hand

upon those principles that approach nearest to nature, which surely render them superior to controversy ; and having indulged them with broths, jellies, &c. earlier than the sucking child ; I shall suppose these also gradually brought on to the twelfth month, and thence proceed with both together.

I MOST earnestly recommend that they be strictly confined to the following diet, and not fed oftener than three, or four times at most, in the twenty four hours. The quantity for each meal may now with propriety be considerably encreased, it consequently therefore will be longer before the stomach is empty.

THUS for instance, let their breakfast, at six or seven in the morning, be half a pint of new milk with about two ounces of bread in it—the second meal, should be half a pint of good broth with the same quantity of bread, let this be given about ten or

eleven in the morning—the third meal, about two or three in the afternoon, should be broth in like manner—and their supper, about six in the evening, new milk and bread, the same as for breakfast. When you substitute jellies, or gravies, for broth, let them be always plain and simple; and a less quantity will prove sufficient.

IF children are thirsty between their meals, a little barley water and milk may be given them, but I would not encourage tipling.

FROM hence, the general intention appears throughout, to decrease the quantity of milk, as you introduce other substantial and proper nourishment,—though I would always allow children a pint of milk each day.

BISCUITS, sweet meats, sugar plumbs, &c. all which tend to spoil the appetite, are

highly improper ; and ought to be looked upon as one of the pernicious effects of luxury. Where is there a child, unaccustomed to such indulgence, that would not be equally pleased with a crust of bread ? It is not my business here to enter so philosophically into the doctrine of nourishment, as to contend with those who suppose it altogether to proceed from the saccharine qualities of food. But allowing them the utmost force of their arguments, I answer, that nature will always prove the best chymist, to separate these sugar-like particles from the aliment we take in. So much for their diet at this time.

LITTLE or no sleep should now be permitted in the day. Air and exercise are greatly to be recommended. Let them rise as early as you please, and the sooner they are put to bed, when the evening begins to shut in, the better. Their cloathing should

now and always, be light and easy. By no means suffer children to be confined in very warm rooms, but accustom them by degrees, to those variations of the seasons, they will be compelled to struggle with in future life.

IT is a great misfortune for children to be brought up too tenderly. Should Providence hereafter design them to contend with difficulties, how little capable will they be of conquering them? The child thus nurtured most commonly grows up too delicate and feeble to encounter hardships. Should necessity, or chance, hereafter lead him to seek his fortune on the raging seas, or to enlist in military service; how pitiful will such a man appear! How unequal to the necessary toils of sieges, storms, and tempests! But however, this great error, to the credit of good mothers be it confessed, is of late years much corrected.

I BEG leave, my fair friends, to say something concerning their being put upon their feet. With respect to the time, the strength of the child must determine that period. Of this be assured, that all children will shew an inclination to walk, as soon as their bones have acquired a firmness sufficient to support the body. I am fearful many heavy children are injured by being put too forward. It is a convenience and ease to nurses to set them upon their feet, as they do not then require exercise in the arms; and consequently are not so great a trouble, and fatigue, to those who have the care of them; but it is a fault intirely to be condemned, and what I particularly caution you against, because, whoever you may have to attend upon your children, they will certainly encourage them to walk for reasons above mentioned.

I DO not mean from what has been said upon this subject, to prevent them, when

they really shew an inclination ; but to admonish you against being too precipitate. It is in my opinion a good method, to suffer the little creatures first to crawl upon a carpet, or any other convenient place ; permitting them to tumble about as much as they please. By this means an exercise will be given to the body, and limbs, without their continuing in one position long enough to hazard a distortion, from too great a weight of body. Thus let them, by degrees, learn to walk upright, which their own inclinations, in imitation of those about them, will prompt them to, full as soon as nature designed.

THERE now remains to speak of the teeth. A circumstance materially to be attended to, as woeful experience daily convinces us.

CHILDREN are teased with cutting of teeth from four or five months, until they are two years old, and upwards; nay some

are so backward as not to have their complete number till they are turned of three years old. I shall not enter into the distinction of teeth, but speak of them in general, so as to give an idea of the precautions I mean to advise.

IT is also very uncertain with respect to the exact time of their shooting any of their teeth, but this also, I believe, chiefly depends upon the strength of constitution; and if the rules laid down in the preceding letters be properly observed, you will generally find children cut all their teeth by the time they are about two years old: You will, likewise, rarely meet with an instance of their being cut with difficulty. It has been already taken notice of, that the reason of their being backward in their teeth, and so many children lost on this account, is intirely owing to a weakness of body, which is a fact that scarcely any one will deny.

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YET, where the constitution is not strong enough of itself, as a great assistance may be obtained, by lancing of the gums, let not false tenderness prevent fond mothers from allowing such relief to their little babes, in the excruciating tortures they suffer by the cutting of teeth. The operation is not to be deemed pain, for if you put any thing with a sharp edge into their mouths, they will save you the trouble of doing it, by pressing hard against the instrument, and cutting the gum themselves.

WHEN the teeth are discernable to the sight or touch, there is very little sense of feeling in the gum, their tortures proceed from the sensibility of a fine membrane which envelopes the tooth. If that membrane is sufficiently divided, although the gum should again unite, there will be no more trouble; for teeth thus lanced will gradually advance without future pain. Ne-

ver therefore, I say, let a prejudice like this hinder you from relieving such poor little helpless creatures.

THERE are many persons who about the age of twenty, have two and sometimes four additional teeth, at the furthest part of the jaws, and from the time of life in which they appear, they are called the teeth of wisdom. Let me desire such wise ones, sensible of the pain upon this occasion, to reflect how insupportable it must be to many infants, who, perhaps, are cutting a mouth full of teeth almost at once, at a time too, when their tender frames are but little capable of bearing pain. Many grown persons are obliged to have such teeth lanced, let them declare how much relief they found, from this simple, but useful operation.

CANDID reasoning, from experience, is the surest way to conquer prejudices; and

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those who give themselves leave to think upon the point with candour, will, I doubt not, allow the force of this argument.

IT may not be unreasonable, in this place, to give a caution, which those who lance teeth would do well to observe; as carelessness, or ignorance in the operation, frequently frustrates the intended benefit. By no means depend upon old women, or nurses, who undertake to do it with crooked fixpences, &c.

WE took notice, a little above, that the pain arises, not from the gum, but from the sensibility of a fine membrane, which envelopes the tooth. It is not therefore sufficient to make a longitudinal incision into the gum, that being too commonly done without dividing this membrane; in which case, instead of good, it does hurt. After cutting through the gum, the instrument should be drawn round the tooth, and the

person should be satisfied that it grates in every part against the tooth, which will effectually divide this too sensible membrane. Where the gum is exceedingly tough, a transverse incision ought likewise to be made, and with these precautions they can never err. Parents cannot be too careful, in regard to this operation, for I have often observed ill consequences, from the carelessness before mentioned.

IN my observations upon children that are lost, between the age of five months, and three years; I have found they are generally carried off by sudden convulsions, or what is called a tooth fever, or a wasting of the body; in the two last cases the scene likewise is commonly closed with convulsive fits.

THE original cause of these disasters having been frequently taken notice of to proceed from the wrong management of chil-

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dren, it appears equally evident, to me, that the immediate cause of these fits, almost always, arises from want of strength in the constitution to cut the teeth. It is true the bowels sometimes are greatly affected, which indeed generally attends a wasting of the body; but then the immediate cause of such complaints at this time is most commonly, the teeth. If children are capable of enduring the kitchen poisons before mentioned in their most tender state, for the first four or five months; surely, without some more active principle, the vital powers would not afterwards be overcome by them.

THIS makes me particularly solicitous to recommend lancing of the gums before it is too late to assist children; being firmly persuaded that many might be saved, who daily fall a sacrifice to those complaints for want of it.

AMONGST many other instances that I could relate, to shew the necessity of ad-

mitting this operation before the strength of the child be decayed, and its body wasted, I shall conclude this letter with a remarkable case of this sort.

A poor woman in the neighbourhood, sometime since, brought her child to me, he was apparently a stout fine boy, and then about nine months old. She desired my advice for an eruption the child had all over his body, which she called scurvy; but I found it nothing more than some pimples proceeding from the improper quality of its food: and in fact, notwithstanding the chubby appearance of the boy (which by the bye was nothing more than bloated fat) he was actually of a very weakly frame, as appears by the sequel—and I think it necessary, as a further confirmation of my assertion, to inform you that his father was at this time between sixty and seventy, his mother not less than four or five and thirty years of age.

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NEAR or quite six months afterwards, the same woman came to beg the favour of me to look at her child again, who, she said, was dying. I saw an infant worn away to a mere skeleton, and upon enquiry, found it to be the same chubby fat boy I had seen before. He lay panting for breath, and had taken little or no nourishment for twenty-four hours. Upon examining the little patient, there was not a tooth appeared. The cause of the disease therefore was immediately evident to me; but I told her it was too late to be of service, for I found the child could not recover.

HOWEVER, to satisfy the mother, I advised lancing the gums. To the astonishment of every one about the child, sixteen large teeth, were cut out; but the gums being very much hardened, for want of this operation, it was with no small difficulty now performed. The immediate relief

which the child received, surprised them all still more. From a convulsive state that he before lay in, he instantly recovered, took notice of every body in the room, and during the time I staid, eagerly devoured a considerable quantity of nourishment.

THE grateful parent thanked me a thousand times, and reflected upon herself for delaying to apply to me before. But alas! I foresaw it was only a temporary relief, his strength being utterly exhausted. I left her without giving the least hopes of his recovery, and the next morning the child died. A reflection upon this case, I take for granted, is intirely needless. It is evident, had the teeth been cut in due time, this fatal accident would not have happened.

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LETTER XI.

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A GENERAL MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN.

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LETTER XI

A general management of children, from three years old, until they come to the age of five.

THE education of children, and the method of instructing them, is a subject of great importance, and one which has attracted the attention of philosophers, statesmen, and parents. The method of instruction, and the manner of conveying knowledge to the mind, are subjects of great importance, and one which has attracted the attention of philosophers, statesmen, and parents. The method of instruction, and the manner of conveying knowledge to the mind, are subjects of great importance, and one which has attracted the attention of philosophers, statesmen, and parents.

At length, after considering the different methods, and the manner of conveying knowledge to the mind, we have arrived at the conclusion, that the best method of instruction, and the manner of conveying knowledge to the mind, is that which is most suited to the nature of the mind, and the manner of conveying knowledge to the mind, is that which is most suited to the nature of the mind.

We have hitherto pursued bread, milk, and the juices only of food; and before we advance any further, I beg leave to make

LETTER XI.

A general management of children, from two years old, until they leave the nursery.

THE cultivation of the mind I have intentionally postponed to my next letter, for which reason I shall now finish my observations upon nursing, and endeavour to point out the safest, and most prudent method, of introducing children into the family way of living.

AT length, after surmounting the difficulties, and inconveniences, attending the cutting of their teeth, we have now set them upon their legs; to the no small joy of the mother, and the relief of those servants whose business it is to wait upon them.

WE have hitherto permitted bread, milk, and the juices only of flesh; and before we advance any further, I beg leave to make

the following remarks, by which my intelligent readers may profit.

THE food of man in all its various shapes, however tortured and disguised, is still confined to animal and vegetable productions.

OF vegetables, bread is the most valuable preparation, as the experience of ages proves. That made from wheat flour is still the most strengthening, and ever to be preferred by those who have the means of obtaining it.

THE milk of cows, although it may be supposed not to partake so much of a strengthening nature as the human milk, those creatures feeding altogether upon vegetables is, nevertheless, to be considered as a food partly animal, and partly vegetable, prepared also under an all-wise direction.

GRAVIES, jellies, and broths, we know are animal juices; either spontaneously flowing from flesh, upon cutting it, after it is dressed; or obtained by a maceration of it in water.

FROM these reflections, therefore, it appears, that in the regimen already permitted, the most valuable supplies of life are granted, and in a manner the best adapted to infant constitutions; requiring but little exertion of the digestive faculties, and gradually introducing that nutriment which, as the body becomes stronger, it must prepare for itself from the grosser aliments.

THE intention of what has been said is to encourage, as much as possible, the continuation of this diet a little longer, and indeed, some of the finest children I ever saw have been chiefly confined to a food like this, for the first five or six years. But al-

though I strongly recommend it, and am conscious that children, unacquainted with the indulgence of variety, would be perfectly satisfied without flesh; yet I am persuaded that the culpable fondness of most parents will initiate them, too early, into the luxuries of a plentiful table.

IT is true, we made an observation that nature never intended flesh for our food, until we had teeth to eat it. But it by no means follows, as soon as we have our teeth, that with an unbounded freedom we are to devour animal food. Remember likewise, ye too indulgent parents, it has been before observed, that every alteration in our manner of living should be brought about step by step, hasty transitions being always dangerous: and let this teach us to be cautious, in our manner, of admitting flesh into the meals of children.

AFTER what has been advanced, and after having given you my opinion that it is yet time enough to suffer children to eat flesh, I now leave this very important point to the discretion of parents: However, permit me to recommend, that when flesh is first introduced into their food, at whatever time it may be, this part of their diet should be allowed them but sparingly; regard also should be paid to its quality.

THE flesh of barn door fowls, beef, mutton, and full grown animals in general, is the best. Cram'd poultry, calves, and house fed lambs, kept up to fatten, are improper; because their juices yield by far less nourishment.

HENCE, beef tea, and mutton broth are preferable to those made from lamb or veal. The flesh also of such young animals does not pass off weak stomachs so easily as the other.

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HIGH seasoned gravies, and soups, made dishes, and salted meats, are ever to be avoided; though salt with their meats may be allowed for the reasons before given.

ALTHOUGH it is not meant to confine them at this age so strictly to bread, I am by no means for permitting too free a use of vegetables; being convinced that some complaints of the bowels, in children more advanced in life, proceed from this error, and particularly worms; since, if the eggs of those insects are not taken in, together with these productions of the garden, on which they harbour and feed; yet this food, at least, affords a quantity of viscid slime, which stagnating in the bowels, serves as an habitation for these pernicious little animals. This is my reason for allowing a little wine, now and then, to be given to children, and am persuaded that I have seen its good effect. Care should be taken in

the choice of vegetables, those of the meal-ly kind, that approach the nearest to bread, are to be preferred, such as potatoes, rice, &c. Turnips are also good. Lettices, and some few others may, in moderation, be given to them, which your own prudence must point out.

THE kitchen preparations of milk, such as custards, blamange, white-pots, &c. are exceedingly proper; and in this kind of food a greater variation may be indulged with less harm, being, for the most part, equally good, and innocent. Salop mixed with milk makes a good custard, and may be granted as often as you please; and let it be remembered that it is the best way of giving that nutritious vegetable to children, and invalids. Eggs are good, and if the yolks be beaten up with warm milk, without boiling, they afford the best nourishment; yet, however they are dressed, never

suffer children to eat them if the yolks be hard. Puddings in general are likewise good, but the most simple are best. Tarts and fruit pies may be allowed in moderation.

SHELL fish, and indeed most other kinds may, now and then, be given, but the firmest are to be preferred. These are the most prudent directions that occur to my memory, but, after all, those are wisest who do not pamper young children with too great a variety.

I SHALL not trouble you with the curative part of diseases incident to children, that being altogether the concern of the profession, though it would give me a real pleasure to see such complaints treated of, in a masterly manner, by some accurate observer of nature. This present system of nursing, being intended to manage them

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so as to prevent illness, has cost me no small pains to separate the two provinces, which I hope is effected with some degree of propriety.

AS to rhubarb, Gascoign's powder, magnesia, &c. every mother's observations in some measure direct a proper use of them; but when disorders do not give way to such simple methods, there is no time to be lost. I beg leave therefore to caution parents, who can obtain the advice of an experienced practitioner, not to depend upon their own judgments, so far as to suffer a continuance of complaints, until they exceed the power of relief. Delays are always dangerous, with respect to disease, even in grown persons, but they are much more so in children, because they have not equal strength and consequently sooner sink under bodily infirmities.

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LETTER XII.

LETTER XII.

THE NECESSITY OF CULTIVATING
THE DISPOSITIONS OF CHILDREN,
TO RENDER THEM AMIABLE AND
VIRTUOUS.

L E T T E R X I I

The necessity of cultivating the disposition of
children, to render them virtuous and wise.

L E T T E R X I I

CONFESS to worthy parents who
know the beauty of virtue, hills, what
temptations life & of covetousness
after two or three years of education
the best of all the world, I gene-
rally applaud an affectionate fondly in-
vested in the female sex, who answer for
you, ladies, that nothing upon earth could
prove equivalent to such a loss. Ten
thousand lost engagements bind them to
your very souls.

This is the time in which their little fond
engagements begin to operate, then every
action is wonderfully engaging, and their

L E T T E R X I I .

The necessity of cultivating the dispositions of children, to render them amiable and virtuous.

C O N F E S S ye worthy parents who know the height of earthly bliss, what temptations in life could prevail upon you after two or three years of age, to part from the dear dear offsprings of your mutual loves? Ye tender mothers speak! I generously applaud an affection thus fondly rivetted in the female breast, and answer for you, ladies, that nothing upon earth could prove equivalent to such a loss. Ten thousand soft enchantments bind them to your very souls.

T H I S is the time in which their little fond endearments begin to operate, their every action is wonderfully engaging, and their

pretty lisping tongues are one universal harmony. How exquisite is the delight to view their expanding minds—now catching sound, that quickly rises into sense, beaming a happy prospect of future understanding! Here the volume of man begins—even at this time the fertile genius glows. How transporting is their sweet sensibility!

O POWERFUL nature, how unspeakably strong are thy ties! What heart, unless strangely perverted, can resist thy impulse? Hence arises the unspeakable difference of a laudable and virtuous passion, compared with an unchaste and vicious life. My God! that men should waste their health and fortunes in the stews with harlots, rioting in obscene and brutal pleasures, where the rational being is sunk even below pity!

such conduct in the cooler hours of thought, if ever they reflect, must cause no-

thing but anguish and remorse. When, by cultivating a chaste and honourable love, such wretched libertines might become the joyful parents of little smiling families. What an alternative is this ! Be dumb, ye lawless rovers, it is an enjoyment beyond your comprehension, for virtuous minds alone can relish it.

WHAT numbers of debauchees, in different climes and ages, worn out by guilty intemperance, mournfully lament their cursed fate, in not being blest with an heir to succeed to their half-ruined fortunes ? Considerate Providence ! thus to disappoint them—for what but impurity and disease could they give birth to ? Happy, thrice happy decree of nature, that virtue alone can claim a smiling and a healthful progeny !

THIS is a theme worthy of an abler pen. How often has prattling innocence disarmed

the rugged fierceness of a brutish nature, and melted down the rage of passion into more than female softness? How often, I say, by these means, is the man of wrath insensibly dissolved into tenderness and love? I must tear myself away from the digression, should I indulge my zealous inclination, a volume of panegyric would fall short of the subject.

THE human mind in its infant opening has been justly compared to a blank sheet of paper, susceptible of every impression. Whence, it may be supposed, children receive their prejudices and inclinations, from the dispositions of those persons to whose care they are entrusted, in like manner as this present letter conveys the sentiments of the author.

THAT any children are naturally vicious, I would not willingly believe. When I

hear parents exclaiming against the bad dispositions of their own children, I cannot help oftentimes secretly condemning them for introducing such vices into their habits. Instinct, even in brutes, produces a tenderness for their young—a harmless society amongst their neighbours—a passive fear towards their enemies—and violence seldom is discovered but against those animals which nature has appointed for their support. Can we then imagine that a worse than brutish fierceness should be naturally discernable in our infant state? that spite, malice, anger, and revenge, such accursed passions, should tyrannize before we are capable of self defence? The very supposition seems to me an arraignment of Providence in the first part of the creation, and appears to be inconsistent with the justice of a benevolent deity.

IT therefore behoves every mother to be perfectly satisfied of the dispositions of such

servants, to whom she entrusts the care of her children at this susceptible time of life; when even the more affectionately these persons treat them, the worse consequences are to be apprehended if their own tempers are not good: for as children are gratefully fond of those who use them kindly, they are by far the more likely to imbibe the bad qualities of an indulgent attendant, and, on the contrary, to profit by good examples.

OBJECTS that attract the eyes are the first delighting. The pleasures from hearing are the next. From sight and sound ideas take their gradual rise. Hence, a partial fondness is formed towards those whose province it is to attend upon them: and children, for this reason, are more fond of their nurses, who are constantly prattling to them, than of parents neglectful of their infancy.

THE want of duty and affection in children towards their parents, so much to be

censured, and so generally complained of, often proceeds from this early mismanagement. The indifference also of too many parents towards their children frequently owes its origin to depriving themselves of the enjoyments of their little ones at this engaging season of life. Even to an uninterested person, the expanding of an infant mind is a delightful entertainment, but to good parents, the pleasure and attachment must certainly prove exceedingly more agreeable, and lasting. We must indeed pity those whom necessity deprives of this happy solace, but utterly condemn such whose inclinations drive their little nurslings from them. Unnatural and mistaken persons, who if they are punished with undutiful children, suffer only in consequence of their own neglect!

WOULD you my tender and considerate matrons, wish to see your children truly a-

miable? Be then ever careful of yourselves. Endeavour also as much as possible to prevent violent excess of passion in your husbands. This is a laudable task, and much more in the power of women than they generally imagine. Trust me, my fair ones, truly prudent and good wives, by bending a little to the rugged, head strong, and boisterous dispositions of some husbands, may for the most part civilize them; and by their endearing and soothing manners, in spite of early vicious habits, compel them to a behaviour of tenderness and love. Thus by the example of an engaging deportment on your part, you will soften their tempers, so as to render them good husbands, good fathers, good masters, and valuable members of society.

WHILE on the other hand, vindictive and peevish women not only forfeit this female importance, but too frequently estrange their husbands affections from them:

and need I say that this want of harmony, and sincere friendship, between man and wife, is a dangerous pattern for their children.

FROM the strong force of example, it becomes in a manner natural to the children of such persons, to give an unbridled loose to every impulse; nay, their emulation is soon engaged to become equally tyrannical with their parents. On the contrary, where no such precedents are before their eyes, where impassioned and youthful love, keeps pace with sentimental friendship; where the polite and well bred man shews a virtuous inclination towards his wife; and they both join in a proper regard for their children:—how much reason have we to expect that their young and tender minds will be impressed with virtue? Nay, I dare aver that, from this rectitude of behaviour, such parents will generally be rewarded, with good and dutiful children.

WITH respect to the management of children, how shall we draw the line betwixt indulgence and severity? Although two opposites, it is scarcely possible; nay it cannot be determined so as to admit of absolute decision. Children, from natural disposition as it is called, which I believe to be merely the effect of early prejudices, require different treatment; and a conduct indulgent to some, will prove the greatest severity to others. Let it therefore be remembered that our plan is to subdue irregular emotions, so as to prevent them from rising into passions.

I WOULD then, at all events, earnestly recommend temper and forbearance to those who have the government of their infant years. Kind treatment, good words, and a generous encouragement, to most dispositions, will prove equal to every thing that you require of them; and if they can be

conquered by such laudable and gentle means, you not only carry the first points in the most eligible manner, but accustom them also to an obliging behaviour, and excite their emulation to endeavour to please.

CAREFULLY therefore observe every emotion that is praise worthy, and let a reward accompany it; for the encouragement of one virtuous impulse, will have a much happier effect than the correction of an hundred faults.

SUCH are the impressions necessary to form a virtuous mind, and will certainly grow up into their habits. On the contrary, where a child's disposition is untoward; if it be subdued by harsh words, threats, and chastisement, how are their tempers ruffled by such treatment?—and what is to be expected, but that they consider severity, and violence, as the only

means for them to obtain any point over others, whom they may have a future occasion to contend with? What a wretched foundation of perpetual disquietude!

WHERE reproof is necessary, mortification is undoubtedly the best means of correction, and let an acknowledgment of the fault prove the means of reconciliation. This humbles them in their own opinions, it necessarily begets shame, and before a disposition is hardened into vice, shame will always produce amendment.

MOREOVER, in this case there is no object for resentment, that great support of pride, consequently it initiates them to consider thoroughly their own conduct, and of course to dwell upon the cause for which they are thus humbled. What, therefore, can more thoroughly conduce to render children amiable as they grow up, than the

accustoming of them to a retrospection of their own behaviour, and to an inward condemnation of their faults, of which their making a concession is sufficient proof.

EVEN in the most trifling promise a parent can make to a child, I most earnestly advise that it be religiously adhered to, otherwise you teach them a shocking lesson of deceit.

FOR equivocation, and falsity, their mortifications ought to be exceedingly severe; but in every point where you find it necessary to correct, be sure you make them truly sensible of their error: at the same time, in every misdemeanour, be thoroughly satisfied that it proceeds from a culpable emotion before you reprove it; for it sometimes falls out, that wrong actions, may proceed from laudable intentions.

How often in life does it happen, that exceptions are taken against a friend, who is at that very time actually meditating the angry person's advantage; and yet, perhaps, appearances so blind him that he thinks of nothing but revenge, until an eclaireissement takes place, when he as passionately reproaches himself for his ingratitude? The case is still harder with children, for when they are punished wrongfully, it is seldom that they have it in their power to clear themselves; and further, they may, probably, suppose their own good emotions to be the guilty cause, and thereby endeavour to suppress a rising virtue.

INDULGENCE over much is liable to produce effects equally bad, as extreme severity; for as the latter inures them to every act of violence, so the former encourages the breach of every civil duty that thwarts their selfish inclinations.

BUT the greatest misconduct of all arises from these two opposite ways of management being united together, in the widest extreme; when one moment the little creature's bones are almost broken for a fault of which it is scarcely sensible, and the next perhaps fondly cherished to reconcile it to the mistaken parent; and in return, not improbably, indulged in exercising its rage upon toies, in torturing birds, dogs, cats, and such like domestic animals as infant tyranny can lord it over; and permitted also at the window to sport with the lives of little buzzing insects that fall a sacrifice to wanton cruelty.

THE child who is fondly, and foolishly indulged, promises only a melancholly prospect, but where on the other hand, as is too generally seen, an occasional severity inures it to cruelty, the disposition is inevitably ruined. The consequences of such severity,

and such indulgence, fill the mind with every disagreeable apprehension: and indeed, what can they produce, but inordinate desires, brutish rage, and violence?

THOSE parents who are happy enough to subdue their own choler, and thereby set their children proper examples, will have very little cause for complaint against them. On the contrary, such as are perpetually quarrelling with each other, with their children, servants, and every body around them, cannot expect much peace and comfort from their rising families. But if they will take this friendly advice, to correct their own errors only once, for every hundredth time they chastise others, it will probably bring about some amendment in themselves; and the force of their example must surely produce the best effect upon their household.

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WE have now conducted children through the different stages of helpless infancy, and gradually introduced them, though as yet but junior characters, upon the grand theatre of life ; where the happy effects of such careful regulations are generally to be distinguished. As to literary improvements, they properly come under another jurisdiction, and therefore claim your future consideration. Nevertheless, a condescending obligingness, a sweet affability, an unassuming sensibility, and a modest deportment, ever denote the proper education of a female mind. In like manner, prudence, abstemiousness, and virtuous dispositions in men, most frequently proceed from the good impressions of childhood. Severe stripes, and harsh usage, add fuel to a turbulent and revengeful spirit, and too frequently render a sullen boy malicious. On the other hand, the indulged, and spoiled child, commonly turns out an abandoned libertine.

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THUS, my fair ones, you may easily discover how much society is interested in your motherly conduct, at this early time; "for as the twig is bent, the tree will grow;" and the seeds of iniquity, in those dispositions where virtue is not planted, unavoidably as it were take root, and spring up without much cultivation.

EVERY notorious vice shews an utter contempt for the moral duties of life, and the man whose character is infamous, seems but little to regard the opinion of others: therefore the good fame and chastity of women become his ridicule and sport. Such men are continually assailing their virtue, and aiming at their seduction. Of consequence, the darling who has never been curbed in the early impulses of erroneous inclinations, will prove to be very little capable of subduing the tempestuous passions of youth; which will not only hurry him

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on to his own ruin, but also too generally occasion the disgrace, infamy, and destruction of many unfortunate young women. Thus it appears, how greatly the happiness and prosperity of the fair sex are affected by the sensual misconduct of ours; inso- much that in the present instance, women as well as men must fall degraded.

and the same time, but also too generally
regarded for its nature, extent, and degree.
And many uneducated young women
I have observed, how greatly the happiness
and prosperity of the latter are affected
by the former and extended of care, labo-
r, and the like.

THE T. E. R. XIII

OF THE T. E. R. XIII

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LETTER XIII.

OF MILK—ITS PROPERTIES EXAMINED.

LETTER XIII.

Of milk—in properties examined—the different kinds of milk compared with each other—and their particular virtues explained.

MILK has been recommended, in several parts of the world, as a proper food for infants, and in the treatment and recovery of it is again spoken of, as being especially necessary for invalids, and for the aged. It shall therefore be the business of this letter to examine to the fullest possible extent, and into the milk of different animals, as may enable us to determine what kind of milk is upon different occasions to be preferred, which will not be every thing, not else where observed, upon this subject.

MILK was before remarked to be a kind of white blood, prepared by the mother for the support of her young, so far we may speak of it in general terms.

L E T T E R XIII.

Of milk—Its properties examined—the different kinds of milk compared with each other—and their particular virtues explained.

MILK has been recommended, in several letters, as the proper food for infants, and, in the fourteenth and fifteenth, it is again spoken of, as being equally necessary for invalids, and aged persons. It shall therefore be the business of this letter to examine so far into the qualities of milk, and into the milk of different animals, as may enable us to determine what kind of milk is upon different occasions to be preferred, which will take in every thing, not else where observed, upon this subject.

MILK was before remarked to be a kind of white blood, prepared by the mother for the support of her young; so far we may speak of it in general terms.

IN different animals therefore it is reasonable to suppose, and fact confirms our supposition, that the qualities of milk are also different; hence, by first examining into its general properties, and, from those principles, setting forth the peculiar variations in the milk of different animals, we shall arrive at the desired conclusion.

IN milk, by stepping into the dairy, we may discern three principal component parts. After it has remained some time in an undisturbed state, the cream floats upon the surface; it is the least in quantity, though most nourishing, of an oily balsamic substance and inflammable in its nature, as the butter which is made from it plainly demonstrates.

A lady, before whom I once made some experiments, asked me why the cream floated upon the surface, for being, continued she, the thickest part, ought it not rather to

sink to the bottom? I told her it was the thickest part, to be sure, but at the same time it was also the lightest; specifically so, as oil is lighter than water, and therefore rises to the top.

THE cream being taken off, the remaining milk appears bluish, and thinner than before, and when thus robbed of its thick creamy part, it consequently is not so smooth to the palate.

ON the addition of runnet, or indeed any acid, a separation of the two remaining parts soon takes place, and we discover the curd. This being the heaviest, when separated from the whey, falls to the bottom. It is the least valuable part of the milk, glutinous in its nature, and composed of the most earthly particles, being also of an astringent quality.

THE third and only remaining part, being the whey of the milk, is the largest in

quantity, of a diluting and cleansing property.

LET us now by this standard compare the different kinds of milk mostly in use with us, and apply them to the purposes for which they seem best calculated.

THE human milk, when drawn from the breast, has exactly the same bluish appearance as cows milk when the cream is taken off. It affords very little cream, and but a small quantity of curd, therefore the whey constitutes the chief part; but the more healthy the woman is, and particularly if between the age of twenty and thirty, the more her milk abounds with rich creamy balsam, and the more it also contains of the curd or earthly particles; probably from her constitution being, at this time, in full vigour, and the digestive powers therefore more perfect.

THESE observations will point out the best substitute where the breast is denied, and will likewise direct those who prefer wet nursing in the choice of the properest person, for there is, in my opinion, an equal objection against the milk of a very young girl, as against that of a woman almost past child bearing. The cleansing quality, before taken notice of in a breast of new milk, will also, together with reason and experience, shew the propriety of recommending those women who have not been long delivered.

ASSES milk is generally allowed to be the nearest to the human, and according to the above experiments we find it so, abounding mostly with whey, and having little of the cream or curd in it. Hence, after a severe fit of illness, where the body is much emaciated, and the stomach weak, or where the blood is loaded with sharp acrid humours, the cleansing quality of asses milk deserves

a preference to that of any other animal which is used for this purpose. In consumptive cases, or where there is a slow habitual fever, it is justly to be preferred, until such time as the constitution may have gained a little strength, when the more nourishing ought to supply its place.

MARE's milk is esteemed to be much the same as asses, but this indeed is in very little use.

COWS milk comes next under consideration. This appears to be the richest, and most nourishing of any of the brutes milk here mentioned. It abounds with a great deal of cream, for after standing twelve hours and being skimmed, it appears equal to any other milk. It contains also a large quantity of curd, and, after all, even the whey is by far more nutritious than any other.

WE observed that asses milk, in the experiments, mostly resembles the human. Why then not prefer that to cows milk for the food of children? I do not totally deny the

use of this milk for that purpose, but in our part of the country it is very expensive, and cannot be obtained in any large quantity, for which reason it would be impracticable to bring it into general use.

THERE is likewise another reason which inclines me to give a preference to cows milk, for notwithstanding the similarity of human milk to that of asses, the first may well be supposed most strengthening, since women usually feed on animal as well as vegetable diet, while the brutes we speak of are confined intirely to vegetables. Whence, if we substitute asses milk, we shall fall short of the nourishment nature designed for us, and therefore, for a young child who requires a heartening diet, the milk of cows, in my opinion, is preferable, as the richness of it is, in some measure, adequate to the supposed difference in the qualities of human milk, and that of other animals.

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THE milk of sheep, and goats, consists mostly of the curd, or earthly particles; hence, where the blood vessels are injured by acrid humours, and frequent bleedings happen from this cause; or where children are subject to the rickets, from a weakness of the bones, that milk which abounds mostly with the curd, or cheesey part, seems best calculated to answer the intention; its earthly, mucilaginous, and astringent property, having the greatest tendency to heal such ruptured vessels, and to give a firmness to the bones: but as these milks possess less of the cleansing power, it will, in most cases, particularly in bleedings, be proper to use the more attenuating kind first.

WE have now examined the different milks familiar to us, and from their different properties, pointed out the end each sort seems best calculated to answer; whence every person will quickly be determined

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which to give the preference to in particular complaints.

WHEN any one first begins to eat milk, especially if a free liver, it may probably purge a little, but such inconveniences will most commonly be removed by accustoming the constitution to the use of it, and boiling the milk will in a great measure prevent this effect. I have always remarked that those who, by reason of a pampered appetite, complain of milk and vegetables being windy, and not agreeing with them; are the very persons who most require such a diet, for it is the debauched state of the stomach and bowels that occasions their uneasiness, which this regimen seems the most likely to correct.

I HAVE recommended a little salt to be mixed with milk before it is given to children, if they are apt to throw it up curdled; and shall mention the experiment which in-

duced me to give that advice, since it is equally worthy the attention of grown persons, some of whom make this an objection to their eating milk, as I am inclined to believe such precaution will render it agreeable to most constitutions.

I PUT two ounces of milk, warm as it comes from the cow, into a tea cup, with a little common salt. I put the same quantity, of the like warmth, into another tea cup, without salt. Then dropping a very little distilled vinegar into each, a hard curd presently appeared in that milk which had no salt in it, while the other with the salt was scarcely altered.

I TRIED the same experiment again with a large tea spoonful of runnet, and observed the milk which had the salt in it, to continue in its fluid state, while the other grew thick and turbid, and almost instantly sepa-

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rated into curds and whey. This last experiment answered the best, and is much more to our purpose than the former. From these hints it seems reasonable to conclude, that salt taken with milk might equally prevent the curdling of it, where there is an acidity in the stomach; and from experience, in recommending it to children who used to throw up their milk in a curdled state, I am convinced of its utility.

IN all cases where infirmities or age require a prudent regimen, I have directed a similar care to that of dieting children. Milk therefore, comprehends a very material part of such food, and I am fully persuaded that if it were more universally used, the world in general would be greatly benefited. I do not, however, mean to be understood that I debar those from a reasonable quantity of animal food, who are capable of digesting it. But such as are emaciated by illness, or have the misfortune to labour

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under gouty complaints, such also who are consumptively inclined, or those who have crazy, infirm constitutions, and are subject to an habitual feverish disposition, will do right to eat flesh only once in the day, and, for the rest of their nourishment, to live almost, if not altogether, upon milk.

under great distress, such also who are
condemned, or those who have
been, and are subject
to a violent disposition, will do
right to be in the day, and
for the purpose to live al-

LETTER XIV.

THE SICK CHAMBER.

LETTERS

The first chapter—

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which, as well as the
moral character of
the country, and the
disposition of the
people, is a subject of
a chapter in the
the eastern world, and
and some interesting
national character.

Let us suppose that
we, if the eastern
people that the
by referring to the
the religious character
enriched by a
and unimpaired.

LETTER XIV.

The sick chamber—with directions also for invalids.

WE are now, my dear ladies, entering into the sick chamber, in which, as well as in the nursery, many amiable characters may be drawn. Here, the conjugal affection of a wife is laudably displayed—the tender love of a mother fondly exerts itself—the gratitude and duty of a daughter are conspicuous—the good sister also endears herself to a worthy brother—and female friendship wears a thousand additional charms!

LET us picture a truly tender and good wife, in this exalted character! Let us suppose that she has her deserved recompence, by restoring to her chaste and longing arms the distinguished choice of her youthful love, enobled by a generous sympathy of virtuous inclinations!

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LET us imagine this happy man perfectly recovered from a dangerous and painful illness, to which recovery, her unwearied attendance proved greatly instrumental : his mind, likewise, impressed with every thought a consciousness of such an obligation can inspire ! Behold the husband admiring her transcendent excellency, while the honest tear, perchance trickling down his cheek, betrays the big emotion of a grateful heart. “ She, on her part, with looks of cordial love, awhile in silent rapture glows—then on bended knee adores her maker ”—returns most fervid thanks, for that her prayer of sorrow has been heard, that He has graciously restored the husband and the father ! How great must be their reciprocal felicity !

I SHALL now proceed to those instructions which are necessary for the proper execution of this friendly office. There is a certain impertinence, frequently proceeding from laudable motives, which, nevertheless,

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is totally culpable : I mean the desire of our acquaintance to visit a sick chamber. It is oftentimes, I acknowledge, the effect of tenderness ill-placed, and a real concern, imprudently expressed. In general, those visits should not be permitted. I every day experience the ill effects of them. When indeed a patient is upon the recovery, and capable of sitting up three or four hours at a time, the company of a friend, who knows how far to engage, with propriety, in conversation, is a sweetly refreshing solace : but locks, bolts, or bars, cannot be too strong to keep prating gossips, at all times, out of a sick chamber.

DURING a fever, it is a load sufficient for any patient to bear the disease. Quietude on his part, and silence on the part of those about him, ought universally to be imposed. It is not a time for the mind to be engaged either in the pursuit of business or pleasure.

This leads me to a consideration of the utmost consequence. If it is now prejudicial for any one to think, even of the common concerns of life, how much more injurious must it prove, to have the mind engaged in that great work of settling, for ever, our worldly affairs?

WOULD you, my friends, wish to be freed from an intolerable burthen, never postpone this important business until you are upon a bed of sickness. Not to say how incapable the judgment at such a time will often prove, perhaps to the detriment of some deserving friend, or not unlikely to the confusion of a whole family, the very mention of it from any one about us, or the conscious necessity in ourselves, must exceedingly hurry and depress the spirits, when tranquility and support are essentially necessary. For what can such an idea convey but death?

THE chamber, proper for a patient, is of no small moment. There ought to be a free circulation of air, whether it be in the summer or winter. I never would have any person confined to a room without a chimney, it is equally necessary in the warmer season for the purpose of discharging the offensive vapours of disease, as it is in cold weather, by means of a little fire, to bring the air to a due temperament, which also contributes to remove the like offence.

To you, my female friends, this concern of nursing belongs. It is an important and oftentimes a fatiguing task. I would willingly engage you in it upon principle, and therefore shall endeavour to shew that man and woman were born for each others support and comfort. Their respective dependence upon each other is, undoubtedly, the wise ordination of omniscience.

I CANNOT speak of this mutual obligation without being mindful of the beautiful passage in our immortal Milton's *Paradise Lost*, book the fourth, where Eve gives Adam an account of herself; and I shall introduce the description at length, as a quotation from this author can never be deemed impertinent. Let us attend to the mother of mankind!—

To whom thus Eve reply'd, O thou! for whom,
And from whom I was form'd; flesh of thy flesh;
And without whom am to no end; my guide,
And head! what thou hast said is just and right.
For, we to him indeed all praises owe,
And daily thanks; I chiefly, who enjoy
So far the happier lot, enjoying thee
Præ-eminent by so much odds; while thou
Like comfort to thyself can'st no where find.
That day I oft remember, when from sleep
I first awak'd, and found myself repos'd
Under a shade, on flowers; much wondering where,
And what I was, whence thither brought, and how.
Not distant far from thence, a murmuring sound
Of waters issued from a cave, and spread
Into a liquid plain, then stood unmov'd,

Pure as th' expanse of heav'n : I thither went,
 With inexperience'd thought, and laid me down
 On the green bank, to look into the clear
 Smooth lake, that to me seem'd another sky.
 As I bent down to look, just opposite
 A shape within the watry gleam appear'd,
 Bending to look on me : I started back,
 It started back ; but pleas'd I soon return'd ;
 Pleas'd it return'd as soon, with answering looks
 Of sympathy, and love : there I had fix'd
 Mine eyes till now, and pin'd with vain desire,
 Had not a voice thus warn'd me, " what thou see'st,
 " What there thou see'st, fair creature, is thyself ;
 " With thee it came, and goes : but, follow me,
 " And I will bring thee where no shadow stays
 " Thy coming, and thy soft embraces ; he
 " Whose image thou art : him thou shalt enjoy
 " Inseparably thine, to him shalt bear
 " Multitudes like thyself, and thence be call'd
 " Mother of human race." What could I do,
 But follow strait, invisibly thus led,
 Till I espy'd thee ? fair indeed, and tall,
 Under a plantain ; yet, methought, less fair,
 Less winning soft, less amiably mild,
 Than that smooth watry image : back I turn'd ;
 Thou following cry'd'st aloud, return fair Eve,
 Whom fly'st thou ? whom thou fly'st, of him thou art,
 His flesh, his bone ; to give thee being I lent
 Out of my side to thee, nearest my heart,

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Substantial life, to have thee by my side
 Henceforth an individual solace dear:
 Part of my soul, I seek thee ; and thee claim,
 My other half !——With that, thy gentle hand
 Seis'd mine ; I yielded ; and from that time see
 How beauty is excell'd by manly grace,
 And wisdom, which alone is truly fair.

TO illustrate my argument of our mutual dependence, I must beg leave to indulge myself, and hope likewise to entertain my reader, with another quotation from the same author. Adam, desirous of retaining the angel Raphael, relates to him what he remembers since his own creation, and amongst other things, that which is to our purpose, his first meeting, and nuptials with Eve. After recounting his dream, wherein he was informed of her creation, he proceeds :—

I wak'd

To find her, or for ever to deplore
 Her loss, and other pleasures all abjure.
 When out of hope, behold her ! not far off ;
 Such as I saw her in my dream, adorn'd

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With what all earth or heaven could bestow,
To make her amiable : on the came,
Led by her heav'nly maker (though un-f-en)
And guided by his voice ; nor un-inform'd
Of nuptial sanctity, and marriage rites :
Grace was in all her steps, heav'n in her eye,
In every gesture dignity, and love !
I overjoy'd could not forbear aloud.—

This turn hath made amends ! Thou hast fulfill'd
Thy words, Creator bounteous, and benign !
Giver of all things fair ! but fairest this
Of all thy gifts ! nor enviest. I now see
Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh, myself
Before me : woman is her name ; of man
Extracted : for this cause he shall forego
Father, and mother, and to his wife adhere ;
And they shall be one flesh, one heart, one soul.

She heard me thus ; and though divinely brought,
Yet innocence, and virgin modesty,
Her virtue, and the conscience of her worth,
That would be woo'd, and not un-sought be won ;
Not obvious, not obtrusive, but retir'd,
The more desirable : or, to say all
Nature herself (though pure of sinful thought)
Wrought in her so, that seeing me, she turn'd ;
I followed her ; she what was honour knew,
And, with obsequious majesty, approv'd

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My pleaded reason.—To the nuptial bow'r
 I led her, blushing like the morn: all heav'n,
 And happy constellations, on that hour
 Shed their selectest influence: the earth
 Gave sign of gratulation, and each hill;
 Joyous the birds; fresh gales, and gentle airs
 Whisper'd it to the woods, and from their wings
 Flung rose, flung odors from the spicy shrub,
 Disporting! till the amorous bird of night
 Sung spousal, and bid haste the evening star
 On his hill-top, to light the bridal lamp.

Thus I have told thee all my state, and brought
 My story to the sum of earthly bliss,
 Which I enjoy: and must confess to find
 In all things else delight indeed: but such
 As, us'd or not, works in the mind no change,
 Nor vehement desire; these delicacies
 I mean of taste, sight, smell, herbs, fruits, and flow'rs,
 Walks, and the melody of birds: but here
 Far otherwise! transported I behold,
 Transported touch: here passion first I felt,
 Commotion strange! in all enjoyments else
 Superior, and unmov'd: here only weak,
 Against the charm of beauty's pow'rful glance.
 Or, nature fail'd in me, and left some part
 Not proof enough such object to sustain:
 Or, from my side subduing, took perhaps
 More than enough: at least, on her bestow'd
 Too much of ornament; in outward shew,

Elaborate; of inward, less exact.
 For, well I understand in the prime end
 Of nature, her th' inferior; in the mind,
 And inward faculties; which most excel:
 In outward also her resembling less
 His image who made both; and less expressing
 The character of that dominion giv'n
 O'er other creatures. Yet, when I approach
 Her loveliness, so absolute she seems,
 And in herself complete, so well to know
 Her own; that what she wills to do, or say,
 Seems wisest, virtuousest, discretest, best:
 All higher knowledge in her presence falls
 Degraded; wisdom in discourse with her
 Loses discountenanc'd, and like folly shews:
 Authority and reason, on her wait,
 As one intended first, not after made
 Occasionally: and (to consummate all)
 Greatness of mind, and nobleness, their seat
 Build in her loveliest, and create an awe
 About her, as a guard angelic plac'd.

How exquisitely charming are these descriptions! what valuable portraits of the first human pair! The lines elegantly strong! The colourings beautifully rich! Then again the amazingly soft and delicate touches of

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this great master of the human feelings, where ever we cast our eyes, enchantingly appear !

WHAT can more fully shew our mutual dependence !—so amiably engaging to each other; our first parents, in this poem, are described, that the labour of either, whereby the other was benefited, must prove a real pleasure. What an example for the encouragement of matrimony ! — O that we could more generally display the character of Adam ! Then you, my fair ones, would strive more ardently, in gentleness and love, to imitate this first of women !

IF man would endeavour to curb unlawful inclinations, cherishing, and comforting, the wife of his bosom ; if he would fondly regard her charms and virtues ; what emulation must such a conduct excite in every female breast—to give honour, and dignity, to her husband ? Let men but be-

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gin the reformation, and I will be accountable for the right behaviour of the generality of your sex.

NEVERTHELESS, the culpableness of man, will not excuse the folly of woman, and this piece of advice from a real friend, the ladies will do well to observe.

I KNOW my fair pupils will tell me, that although a husband may have follies, and vices, yet, if he is but a sensible man, they can over-look them, and chearfully submit to their lord and master—but who, say they, can be governed by a fool?

WHEN once a woman has drawn her lot, it is not only her duty, but the height of policy, to make the best of it. Let her choice prove ever so disagreeable, or supposing that she was led into such a marriage by the cruel compulsion of her friends, still, honour and obedience are required on her part. By giving

importance to an husband, (even those husbands we are now speaking of, for others will command it,) a wife merits, and generally obtains praise, and adoration, not only from him, but from the whole world.

ON the contrary, the mistaken she, who in company degrades, and, upon every occasion, tauntingly reproaches her husband, thus making him, poor man, the contemptible butt to level her triumphant shafts at; notwithstanding she imagines her own wit, and superior talents, are happily displayed, to the entertainment and admiration of her friends; believe me, ladies, by those very friends she must ever be condemned: and let her merits, in other respects, be ever so great, this culpable part of her behaviour they most assuredly despise.

BUT to return from our present wandering, which I intentionally followed as an

encouragement to virtue, a consistency of character, and mutual love, being convinced that these qualifications will make even a constant attendance in a sick chamber not altogether unpleasing. Now then let us pursue our further care, where female tenderness can assuage the severest bodily pains, and render the greatest misfortunes of life, at least, supportable.

IN every disorder, physic and good nursing, ought to go hand in hand; and I am the more desirous of giving my opinion with respect to *good nursing*, as I mean to oppose it to *poor and bad nursing*; which has been too much the unlucky, and mistaken practice, of the sick chamber: for under the vague idea of inflammation, and inflammatory diseases, even bread and water have been sometimes accounted too great a support for the patient. But, with pleasure, we now see physicians act upon more ra-

tional principles ; and I would wish to convince you, ladies, whose province it is, of the propriety of supporting patients under every disease.

THE sick chamber is our subject, but it is also to be understood, that the precautions here laid down, will prove equally necessary, where invalids are permitted to attend to the common affairs of life, for without a prudent regulation in our method of living, few constitutional, or long-existing ails can be removed, or even rendered in any degree light, and easily to be borne; but I am clearly convinced, that it is very possible for many infirm persons, to pass comfortably through a tolerable length of life, and, at last, to pay an easy debt to nature.

THE observations, therefore, upon children and aged persons, are equally applicable to those, who by ungoverned passions and intemperance have ruined their health ;

for in either of these cases, where the bodily powers are enervated, and the digestion weakened; a proper, light, and nourishing diet, is as necessary to restore health, as it is to support the young, and preserve the aged.

EVERY disease is to be considered as a deviation from health; and a fever is the means made use of, by nature, to free the body from something that is noxious. Ought we therefore to counter-act her in this her own great work? Ought we not rather cautiously and prudently, like a valuable hand maid, to tend upon her movements, and generously support her in the design she aims at? Surely this appears to every one reasonable.

HOWEVER, where there is a fever, or great weakness of the body, or where the body itself is emaciated, an alteration, from the common manner of living, is certainly

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necessary. To these points, therefore, I shall confine my advice, as other considerations come under a medical direction.

FEW persons are constrained to keep their chambers, who are not troubled with great loss of strength, or feverish complaints; either as the first cause, or as symptoms accompanying other diseases. Supposing then these circumstances, the constitution being thus reduced, or nature labouring to throw off a disease, the body certainly requires a nourishment of the most simple kind; by simple, I mean easy of digestion, but let it at the same time be comfortable. The stomach and bowels must, of necessity, be equally affected with the other parts of the body, and consequently unable to perform their offices upon the common supports of life.

ANIMAL food, therefore, is particularly to be forbidden, and I am sorry to be oblig-

ed to blame the fondness of parents, and those who assist in sick chambers, for too frequently indulging patients thus unwarrantably. Give me leave to observe that, if flesh be permitted during the existence of a fever, or when the body, by illness, is exceedingly weakened, and emaciated, from the incapacity of the digestive faculties, the nourishment produced must be imperfect, crude, offensive; and consequently, instead of a support, must add an additional weight to the disease.

BUT, at the same time, let it be remembered, that as a support is necessary, good broths, wine whey, jellies, panado, a beveridge of wine and water, &c. are to be discretionally permitted; and indeed the inclination of the sick person will generally determine the propriety of these things; for where they are hurtful, an universal loathing of them commonly takes place.

THESE, and such like fippings, being easy of digestion, are not only the properest for a diseased state of the stomach and bowels, but they also supply the body with a necessary nourishment, to uphold its strength under the disorder. It is a point at present acknowledged by all physicians. It is, in my opinion, a circumstance minutely to be dwelt upon, for woeful experience has often convinced me, that the rashness of an obstinate nurse, in one unlucky hour, has counter-acted the operations of a well regulated, and otherwise successful regimen.

ALTHOUGH I would debar patients from animal food, where there is a feverish complaint, nevertheless I do most earnestly recommend a generous, but discretionary, support of easily digested, and comfortable liquid nourishment, in every fever. I mean, that barley water, mint, and baum tea, with such like drinks, will not sufficiently sup-

port the strength of a patient under any kind of fever, even for a few days, and much less for as many weeks. As to the distinctions of inflammatory, nervous, and putrid, it is not my business to enter upon them here; but supposing the fever to be inflammatory, the patient is, or ought to be, confined to bed, and a breathing sweat encouraged. Will not then an already almost digested, and innocent liquid nourishment, answer the physicians aim, at the same time that it supports the patient? Experience has convinced me of its utility. I cannot help, therefore, strongly recommending it, for I am too apprehensive that many lives are daily lost for want of this necessary support.

I AM labouring to prevent that mistaken care, which is commonly called starving a disease, and to set aside the dreadful apprehension that a little innocent nourishment,

given to a person in a fever, is still adding fuel to the fire. By these errors the ablest assistance is oftentimes baffled, to the cost of the patient, and, not unlikely, to the disgrace of a worthy practitioner. Be assured, that it is more eligible to endeavour to support, and build up again, a shaken, diseased and tottering frame, than to attempt to pull it down. Never let this be done but by the express command of an able practitioner, for it is a serious affair at all times to deprive a tenement of its foundation and strength. It is much to be wished, as it surely must prove a general advantage, that physicians would particularly direct the regimen of diet in sick chambers.

THE punctuality of nurses, and those who attend upon the sick, in the administering of medicines, is of no small import. It is a cruel reflection upon the honest part of the profession, that practitioners consult the

length of their bills more than the health of their patients. Such iniquity is but very seldom, I hope, if ever practised, and as few persons employ any but those of whom they entertain a good opinion, let me warn you, as a friend, not to indulge a suspicion which may, and most probably will, produce fatal consequences to yourselves. Great relief, nay, oftentimes, perfect health, is assuredly to be obtained by the help of medicine. Great evil, nay, too frequently, certain death, ensues from a jealous contempt, or wanton neglect of this salutary aid.

I MUST speak of another mistake, with regard to the management of linen. A patient cannot be hurt by changing wet filthy and offensive linen, for that which is clean dry and comfortable, provided this be done with proper care, not to give cold during the time of shifting the cloaths. Linen which is perfectly dry and clean is, at all

times, to be preferred to that which has been used, for the latter may have absorbed offensive vapours, of which the former must be intirely free. Against this observation, I am convinced, there are great prejudices, nevertheless those who employ their reason but for a moment, will see the propriety of the present caution.

A FREE succession of air is essentially necessary, not only to carry off the offensive vapours of disease, but also to the recovery of the patient, nay even to the preservation of those who attend upon the sick. It is true that a fire is proper in cold weather, for reasons before given, but at the same time the chamber ought to be no more than comfortably warm, for where this degree of heat is exceeded, faint sweats are likely to exhaust the patient's strength, whereby he sinks, perhaps, under a disease, through which, probably, he might otherwise have been supported.

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HAVING now cautioned you against the most material errors which, at present, occur to my memory, I will beg leave to observe what poor creatures men, in general, are, when necessity confines them to a sick chamber ! If we reflect upon this scene, ought we to complain of the spirits of women ? I scarcely ever find a man, in sickness, support himself so well as a woman does. Men are, for the most part, depressed in their spirits to the greatest degree when they are ill. Be it then with gratitude remembered, that in a sick chamber, the chearful vivacity, and, let me add, the true philosophy, of a kind female friend, prove essentially necessary. A good nurse will, in a great measure, alleviate our bodily infirmities, by supporting our spirits in time of sickness.

A MAN, by striking and superior abilities, industry, and good fortune, is sometimes lucky enough to raise himself, aggrandise his

family, and bring to his wife conveniencies far beyond her expectations. But what are all these things compared to the comfort, and tender support, which she in return can largely bestow upon him; at a time too when the infirmities of nature, will not suffer such an exalted favourite of fortune to relish any one enjoyment of life? Ask this very darling, when he is stretched on the bed of sickness and rendered helpless by disease;—let us fancy him too almost expiring under excruciating agonies, and now put the question to him, Which is more eligible, fortune or health? He will assuredly answer, that one moment's ease, is more desirable than all the splendid advantages he may have obtained.

IN like manner, the truly affectionate and sympathising concern, the delicate deportment, and careful attendance of a good wife, in these scenes of painful sufferance, more than over ballance every thing that is in the

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power of the most successful husband, to bestow upon her; and it is a truth which truly generous minds will ever gratefully acknowledge.

A MAN, under these circumstances, with some regard to his accustomed manner of living, and the particular disease, is to be considered as a child; and consequently ought to be submitted to female management. Your care, therefore, will of course direct you to seek the assistance of able, and experienced physicians. May their skill conquer the disease, while you generously support his strength, and spirits; and thereby greatly contribute, to restore again the invalid, to a healthy, and vigorous constitution!

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LETTER XV.

OLD AGE—BY VIRTUE RENDERED
TRULY HONOURABLE.

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XV E T E R

L E T T E R X V .

Old age—by virtue rendered truly honourable.

*The steps by which we mounted into life,
shewn to be the easiest, and best paths, to
descend into the grave.*

SPRING, summer, and autumn, have their various, and engaging charms; and there is something peculiarly pleasing in each transition; but stern winter can boast of nothing besides the fruits of the preceding seasons.

THE life of man is often, with propriety, compared to the progressive year; and the only happiness that can be expected in old age, must arise from the reflections of a well spent life; at which time, being likewise the winter of our days, every person may generally reap the fruits of a past virtuous conduct. For, although the benumbed limbs

deny the body their usual support, and the hoary head trembles on its withered shoulders, such a good man or woman, one would hope, has where withal to procure the indulgencies their years require, and a sufficiency to requite the attendance of a faithful servant. Join to these, a further blessing that, perchance, kind heaven has bestowed; a dutiful and good daughter to support their infirmities, and by her affectionate tenderness, fully to repay them for the pains of her education, and that parental anxiety, which must necessarily have been sustained, during her youth.

HERE, I say, the tender indulgence of a kind parent, is amply rewarded, by the fostering care of a truly virtuous, and affectionate child; and such is the easy decline, that Providence intended to old age—thus to close life with a not unhappy period.

LET us, my amiable friends, picture a worthy and aged man, in his second infant state. Let us chearfully attend him to the gates of death, there to deliver him up into the bosom of his creator ! Let us indulge a rational sorrow, but at the same time support that calmness, and serenity, which denote a religiously informed mind. Let us consider this as a debt which we all must assuredly pay, and that it puts an everlasting period to the calamities of life ! Whence may be drawn this comfortable conclusion, that if to the uttermost of our power, we have contributed to the great end for which we were created, our future state of existence must be happier than the present.

COME then, ye tender and sympathising fair, let us approach the chamber of death ! Let us advance to the bed of this good parent, and behold his calm and resigned countenance ! Although we shall find it a solemn

scene, yet there is nothing so terrible in this sight as the world generally imagine. But draw the contrary character, that of a wicked man in his last moments; and it must be shocking indeed.

AS ripen'd and mellow fruit drops, untouched, from the tree to its mother earth, so the good old man falls peaceably into the grave, and mingles again with the common dust from which he originally sprang.

IT is the vicious alone that have reason to be terrified at the thoughts of death, but we are describing the upright man, not unlikely taking a last and affectionate farewell of his lovely and dutiful daughters; exhorting them to the practice of virtue, and recounting the rewards attendant upon it. The eldest, perhaps, in her willing arms supports the expiring sire, while the youngest administers some refreshing cordial to de-

tain, for a moment, the fleeting spirit. Meanwhile the tranquil parent, peradventure, gently rebukes the falling tear, prophetically foretelling that their last moments shall be peaceable like his—and blesses them with his dying lips.

FOR such characters, delineated more at large, and which are worthy of our admiration, and reverence, I must refer my gentle readers, for the female one, to that great master of human feelings, Mr. Richardson, in his history of Sir Charles Grandison; where the description of Mrs. Shirley will assuredly delight and instruct every one.

THE whole work contains a noble system of morality, and is highly to be recommended to all young persons. These useful lessons will be still more instructing, when read in the company of those who are capable of making proper remarks. This being pre-

mised, virtuous emulation will ever be most excited in young minds from characters which appear real, because example always proves stronger than precept. Thus entertainment, and improvement, will go hand in hand.

FOR the other character, I mean that of a good old man, no one has excelled the ingenious and learned Dr. Armstrong, in his essay upon health. The whole poem, indeed, is written in a masterly stile, and conveys many useful instructions, truly worthy of perusal, but his description of honourable age is inimitable, and although very concise, nevertheless it contains a volume of panegyric. I shall beg that gentleman's leave to transcribe it.—

How to live happiest ; how avoid the pains,
The disappointments, and disgusts of those
Who would in pleasure all their hours employ ;
The precepts here of a divine old man
I could recite. Tho' old, he still retain'd

His manly sense, and energy of mind.
 Virtuous and wise he was, but not severe;
 He still remember'd that he once was young;
 His easy presence check'd no decent joy.
 Him even the dissolute admir'd; for he
 A graceful looseness when he pleas'd put on,
 And laughing could instruct. Much had he read,
 Much more had seen; he studied from the life,
 And in th' original perus'd mankind.

SUCH characters render old age desirable,
 lovely, and truly honourable. The odium
 of peevish and morose vanishes, while our
 reverence and admiration stand alone en-
 gaged. Who would not wish to be that
 old man, whose calm tranquility far sur-
 passes the transient, and passionate, enjoy-
 ments of youth? Happy children blest with
 such happy parents!

FROM this description, I hope to inter-
 rest the tender passions of my fair readers,
 so as to make them chearfully contribute to
 the comforts of their aged parents, while
 they yet live. A dutiful daughter must ever

make a good wife, and tender mother; and to a prudent, discerning man, is certainly one of the greatest recommendations in the choice of a companion for life.

ON the other hand, a cruel and undutiful child, is the most odious, and unnatural monster upon earth; insomuch that the Chinese, are said to punish such crimes with the greatest severity. It is recorded in their history, that if a son should be known to kill, or so much as to strike his father; not only the criminal, but his whole family would be rooted out; their dwelling razed to the ground, and its foundation sown with salt; nay, *le Compte* adds, that the inhabitants of the place where he lived would be put to the sword; as they conclude, there must have been a total depravation of manners in that clan, or society of people, who could have bred up among them so horrid an offender.

How beautifully has our inimitable Shakspear drawn the two contrasted characters, in his description of Lear, and his three daughters; where the two elder appear like Satan's evil angels, while Cordelia, the poor Cordelia, is an exalted example of filial tenderness, and affection!

To your peculiar province, ye amiable fair, is this last great duty consigned; to instruct you, therefore, in the proper execution of it, a few useful observations may not be unseasonably introduced.

IN a former letter, we likened infancy to a tender plant; where we taught the best method of rearing it, so as to make it flourish in the garden of the world. The summer having produced you, the fair fruit of this goodly tree; and the autumn of your parent-stock having ripened your understanding; it is but meet, that such know-

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ledge should direct you, at this frozen season, to cherish the decaying root from whence you sprang.

WE have taken notice of the helpless state of childhood, before the body has acquired strength sufficient to prepare its own nourishment. We have shewn the time when instinct, and reason, direct us to provide for ourselves; and particularly observed, that animal food was never designed for our use, until we had teeth given us to eat it.

LET us continue these speculations, and regard the natural growth of our bodies together with the encreasing strength of our constitutions. Behold the child, whom you lately fondled in your arms, now contending with his play-fellows in boyish sports. Again, observe him who lately returned from school with his satchel in his hand, now panting foremost in the chase. And

now see manhood stamped upon the downy cheek. Let us likewise remember the equally gradual declension.

AT length the sturdy son supports his feeble fire. For he who, in his youth, was swiftest in the race, is now scarcely able to uphold his tottering limbs. The man of war, whose sturdy arm wielded the blood thirsting sword of battle, is now bending under the weight of his own body. Behold his sinews are dried up, and the purple current that bounded in his veins, now heavily and scarcely creeps along. In every part alike the powers of this wonderful machine decay. The penetrating eye, that searched into the very abyss of thought, is now altogether useless, or but dimly discerns the rays of light. The teeth also, designed both for use, and ornament, robbed of their beautiful enamel, decay and drop out of their sockets. Such is the almost universal condi-

tion of our second childhood, and plain are the inferences to be drawn from hence.

IF a light, and easily digested nourishment was necessary before our bodies had obtained their proper strength, surely a similar method of living is the most proper, when they have lost it; and therefore—the steps by which we mounted into life, are the easiest, and best paths, to descend into the grave.

THE digestive powers of age, are equally enfeebled with the other members of the body, and undoubtedly, the same reason that forbid the use of flesh, before we had teeth, points out the necessity of gradually declining it, as they decay. There are, indeed, some few persons toothless, who are not far advanced in life, but such constitutions are generally feeble, and therefore the precautions are applicable to them.

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THESE arguments being rightly understood, there will be little occasion to enlarge upon this subject, as the directions for the management of children, from the time of weaning them, until they may be entrusted to the care of themselves, comprehend every necessary instruction for the regimen of old age; and those persons act wisely who consider it as a second childhood.

I NEED not be more particular on this head, as few, I am persuaded, will suppose this epocha to commence with themselves, before it is necessary for them to conform to these rules.

AGE, undoubtedly, requires indulgence, but at the same time indolence creeps on it imperceptibly. Those suffer least from pain, who rouse themselves to a state of activity, and there are exercises well adapted even to

advanced life. An additional warmth of covering is at this time necessary, yet those act wisely who do not accustom themselves to very warm cloaths, and very warm rooms, while they are capable of enduring the variations of their natural climate.

NEVERTHELESS, one remark must not escape our observation, I mean the happy effect of temperance through life; it not only prevents disease as we are upon our journey, but enables us to receive the intended benefit, and cordial support, of wine, and other comfortable sippings, in this time of need. Nature, in a temperate person, obtains fresh vigour, and spirits, from such exhilarating juices; but where the constitution has been accustomed to excess, no advantage, in the decline of life, can be derived from their use.

I HAVE now fulfilled my present design, and, through every letter, have aimed at con-

veying my observations in a rational, and amusing manner; calculated, I hope, to please, at the same time that I wish to instruct. It is a topic which, in different parts of it, has been handled by very able men; and yet has generally I believe been esteemed a dry subject, particularly by the ladies, to whom it essentially belongs. This dislike seems, probably, to have arisen from the style not being sufficiently void of terms of art; for the taste, as well as judgment, must be pleased, when we mean to encounter prejudices, and to correct long established errors.

IT will give me a particular satisfaction, if I have so far succeeded in my undertaking, as that the present collection of letters may deserve a place in the ladies library; and perhaps this little volume may sometimes prove the companion of the nursery, and sick chamber, or even afford an hour's amusement in a carriage.

246 L E T T E R XV.

IT is intended, my fair, to render your characters truly amiable ; and I trust will be received as a present from a sincere friend to the sex. Where tenderness, good nature, sense, and virtue, are beautifully blended in a female form, our admiration, and love, are equally engaged ; and where this proves to be the case, every man is surely compelled to devote himself to the service of perfections, so irresistibly engaging—such, at least, is the resolution of

THE AUTHOR.

F I N I S.



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FINIS

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LETTER I
OF MARKS

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